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# THE TIMES

Should Europe share North Sea oil? Page 16

## EEC leaders face threat to throw out budget

new directly-elected European Parliament been advised by its budget committee to throw out the entire budget for next year if members of the Nine do not offer " significant concessions" at the Dublin summit meeting begins today. This unprecedented move could create financial chaos in the EEC.

## Call for concessions to avert chaos

Michael Hornsey

s, Nov 28

European Parliament was by its budget committee to reject the entire EEC's 1980 budget if members of the Nine do not offer " significant concessions" at the Dublin summit meeting begins today. This unprecedented move could create financial chaos in the EEC.

decision, taken by an overwhelming majority of the EEC's members on a moved by the Socialist reflects the Parliament's over the cavalcade treatment last week to its proposals by the Council of Budget

ers, would be unprecedented, legal, for the Parliament to throw out the entire budget and it would create chaos. The money to finance the Common Agricultural Policy would soon, and furious farmers' leaders might sue the Commission for

is to follow the budget's advice, the Parliament would have to muster a majority of all its members. That would not be in the determination of new directly-elected members to flex its muscles consistently surprised governments.

Parliament is especially at the selection, led by the Budget Minister, for a cut in agricultural spending and for big rises in regional and other as well as energy research projects.

it in farm spending was, but it would have set important precedent by the Parliament's control of the budget into the sacrosanct agricultural

That is a prospect alarmingly countries like members of the budget committee made clear that what

they expect from EEC leaders in Dublin this week is a clear and concrete commitment to rein back on agricultural expenditure, which at present consumes 75 per cent of all Community funds.

A foretaste of the chaos the Parliament could cause has been given already by its delay in approving a supplementary budget for 1979 to cover extra agricultural costs arising out of this year's EEC farm price settlement.

The customs authorities in Hamburg have already run out of money to pay German traders' export subsidies and the Bonn Government has refused to help. Other member states are drawing on national funds to meet claims from farm traders or are raising loans to do so.

The European Commission announced today that under EEC rules it cannot begin making any advance payments out of the 1980 budget before December 10 at the earliest. Even that possibility would disappear if the Parliament refused to adopt next year's budget.

It is certain that member states will expect any interest they have to pay on loans to meet the shortfall to be charged to the Community budget, further exacerbating the Community's financial problems.

One Political Editor writes: Mrs Thatcher sets forth tomorrow to do battle in Dublin with her fellow EEC heads of government to try to "get back Britain's bottom". This is the way Labour MPs have been dubiously egging her on in an effort to eliminate the pending £1,100m deficit in Britain's EEC budget payments.

It is fair to say that, while Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet colleagues are impressed by the Prime Minister's all-or-nothing stance, some have private doubts about the wisdom of expelling things in such uncompromising terms.

Castles tickets, page 10

## Higher tax threatened if pay rises continue

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent Increased taxation in next year's budget was the alternative that the country would have to face if public sector spending and pay settlements continued uncontrolled at high levels. This warning came from Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the Commons last night when he opened debate on the Government's economic policies.

He added that if the private sector was not to face an excessively high tax burden, public spending must be held firmly under control.

In the first important economic debate since Sir Geoffrey's budget in June, the Chancellor emphasised that there were no reasonable or realistic alternatives to the policies that the Government was pursuing.

The tone of the Chancellor's words was in stark contrast to the budget豪斯 when he was glorying in the new Government's success and indicating that more could be expected in budgets still to come. Indeed, apart from confidence that he had the right policies, course, there was little to choose between the gloomy predictions, at least the short term, coming from the two opposing front benches.

Opening for the Opposition, Mr Denis Healey, former Chancellor, said that nothing could justify the large increases in the level now being demanded and achieved. To the discomfort of some of his backbenchers, Mr Healey told them the unpalatable truth that those increases would not lead to any improvement in real earnings.

But he continued, the Government could not expect working men to see the cost of living rising by up to 10 per cent without seeking to make good the fall in their living standards.

Support for government policies came from an unusual quarter in the shape of Mr Enoch Powell, Official Ulster Unionist MP for South Down. The Government, he said, was undertaking a policy which required to be persevered with over a series of years. He agreed with the Chancellor that there was no alternative to the present course.

Earlier, Sir Geoffrey had told the House that the action he was taking was clearly essential to re-establish and maintain control over monetary and fiscal policy.

He claimed that Labour's spending plans just before the general election would have meant 5p on income tax, VAT at 20 per cent, and higher rates, or all three of these.

The Chancellor hinted also that the next Budget could see further cuts in public spending when he addressed a backbencher who asked whether the Government was cutting back sufficiently, that he intended to maintain the pressure on public spending.

But Mr Healey said the landscape was littered with broken hopes and broken promises. To try and control inflation by control of the money supply alone could only be done at a horrifying cost in output and jobs. He gave a warranty that although some large firms might be able to escape the effects of the Government's policies, small firms which did not have the same bargaining power would find the banks foreclosing on loans.

The attempt by the Government to hold monetary growth of 5 or 6 per cent instead of 10 per cent was, he argued, up to five times as restrictive as any government in the world had ever attempted, Mr Healey said.

Parliamentary report, page 8

Senate, page 10

## Knife scuffle in Kennedy office suite

From David Cross

Washington, Nov 28

Senator Edward Kennedy, two of whose brothers were killed by assassins, escaped unscathed today when a woman with a knife scuttled with secret service agents guarding him in his office suite on Capitol Hill.

There was a scuffle when she was intercepted and one of the secret service agents was nicked by the knife. The woman was arrested.

Senator Kennedy requested was given a secret service protection in September when it became clear that he would challenge President Carter for the Democratic nomination.

Todays' scuffle has reawakened fears that the senator may be a target for would-be assassins during the forthcoming presidential election campaign. President John Kennedy was shot dead in Dallas in November 1963, and Senator Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles in June, 1968.

Mary Whitehouse welcomed the restrictions, pointing out that the setting of special cinemas and shops effectively legalises pornography. She said the committee's view that the link between pornography and the commission of sexual crimes is not

corrupt and to make

the arts have called a pornographer's character, Brian Mawhinney, Conservative MP for Peterborough, a Private Member's indecent displays due to a reading on December 1st that it is a "porno" licence to cause

the government to do

the meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries Page 21

William Whitelaw, the Secretary, thanked the tee in a written reply for the "clear issue" in which the Government had been presented. The government will want to a careful study of the tree's proposals and to a count of Parliament's public opinion, he said.

Committee, which was in July, 1977, under the chairmanship of Dr Bernard, bases its recommendation on its conclusion that in adults who want to see should be allowed to do through under restrictions, a category of film designated "R" would be introduced for pornographic films, written word, the comments need not be submitted to the obscenity laws, or adds that the existing obscenity should be

review of its participation in the constitutive machinery.

Report, page 12

Leading article, page 12

Page 2

## Shell raises prices by 2p a gallon

Shell raised the price of petrol,

diesel and heating oil by an average of 2p

per gallon from midnight last night, increasing the price of four star petrol

at most of its garages from 115p to

117p per gallon. Other petrol com-

panies said they had no intention of

raising their prices, but further in-

creases are certain. The Shell increase

is based on higher supply costs since

July. More rises are expected after

the meeting of the Organisation of

Petroleum Exporting Countries Page 21

The TUC submits a request to put forward nominations to the National Enterprise Board and endorsed the decision of its Finance and General Purposes Committee to withdraw members from the north-west and north-east regional boards. It is to make a wide-ranging review of its participation in the constitutive machinery.

Report, page 12

Leading article, page 12

Page 2

## Benefits reformed

Closure of the Supplementary Benefits Commission has been confirmed. A

White Paper on reform of the supple-

mentary benefit scheme is due to be

published today. The proposed reforms

were welcomed generally but the social

security Bill was roundly condemned by Opposition MPs.

Page 4

## HOME NEWS

**TUC refuses to make nominations to new NEB and endorses regional boards withdrawal**By Paul Roulledge  
Labour Editor

The TUC is to undertake a wide-ranging review of its tripartite consultative links with the Government and the CBI in the wake of the National Enterprise Board resignations affair.

Union leaders will make a "very vigorous" protest next Wednesday at a meeting of the National Economic Development Council over Sir Keith Joseph's handling of the future of Rolls-Royce.

After refusing the minister's request to make nominations to new NEB, the TUC General Council yesterday endorsed the decision of its "inner cabinet", the finance and general purposes committee, to withdraw union nominees from the northwest and north-east regional boards.

There is some pressure for the unions to go further and pull out of the NEBC, its 39 working parties and other joint bodies on which the TUC is represented. But Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, made clear that there would be no precipitate move in that direction.

He said after yesterday's general council meeting that the unions would "pursue very vigorously" their view about the NEB at the talks next week with ministers and the CBI. The

TUC's influential economic committee will then review the situation on December 12.

But it is unlikely that the arguments for withdrawal from the consultative machinery will win the day. Union leaders point to reports already in train from the sector working parties with the useful information-gathering role they fulfil.

They will be particularly reluctant to give up their seats on the Manpower Services Commission, which oversees employment politics and government grants for job creation.

"There is always a debate about whether we are getting as much out of these joint bodies as we would like," Mr Murray said. "But we look at developments over a period. What we have sought within the industrial strategy has been to get more involvement of trade unions in the workplace in decisions made there."

"This is the way we will test the usefulness of bodies such as this. If we find that in nine or twelve months that it is not working, then that is a different scenario." It was the TUC's long-term aim to restore the NEB as a "strong and thrusting body, when circumstances permit".

The TUC general secretary justified the unions' refusal to serve on the new NEB board by arguing that Sir Keith had

"very clear prior warning" that the withdrawal of Rolls-Royce from the state holding company's portfolio would be regarded as a vote of no confidence. Resignation had been forced on them by the Industry Secretary's decision to go ahead with the severance.

Mr Murray also dismissed recent ministerial arguments that big pay settlements were forcing up inflation. "What we are clear about is that attempts are being made to ascribe all the misfortunes of the economy to developments in pay are designed in mislead and obscure the real causes."

"The real causes lie in the Budget and the Government policies that have succeeded. But we are not surprised by the Government trying to use the unions as scapegoat. That is nothing new in our experience."

In a talk with Mr James Prior, the Employment Secretary, today, the TUC's employment policy and organization committee will express "total opposition" to the Government's industrial relations legislative proposals.

Union leaders have been called to a conference at Congress House on January 22 to discuss plans for a campaign against the new laws. The Bill is to be published in about a week.

**Ministers attack 'mindless' marchers**By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

Ministers responsible for local authority spending yesterday joined in criticism of the protest against cuts in Government expenditure.

Mr Tom King, Minister of State for Local Government and Environmental Services, complained of the "mindless militancy" of the marchers in the protest.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, viewed the protest so seriously that he issued a statement: "Let us be clear what today's march is about. It is to maintain levels of public expenditure we cannot afford. It is to avoid the consequences of last winter's pay settlements. It is to support an explosion in the rates."

"It is humbug for those who imposed such suffering last winter to march now in alleged support for the very people upon whom they imposed that suffering."

Mr King, addressing an Institute of Management Services' conference in London, acknowledged that among the protesters were "several concerned frightened people who saw in the uncertain times ahead the need to band together to protect themselves from the cold wind of economy."

There were also politically motivated, deliberately provocative people. "Positive proposals are not found by marching in the streets. I accept that what we are asking for will cause some real problems for local authorities."

"But solutions do not lie in protests which ignore the country's difficulties. They lie in a constructive approach and in sensible action. Shouting is no way to give the public a fair deal. A constructive approach, not a mindless march; that is what we need."

Mr King argued that there was real scope for savings in the cost of local government, mainly by natural wastage of staff.

The Department of the Environment is beginning to draw home the message that by filling only one out of four vacancies the savings can be made. Added emphasis came yesterday with the detailed figures of local authority manpower, which showed an increase of 30,000 staff between June 1978 and June 1979.

Local government's argument that the increase was due to greater responsibilities imposed by central government had a point, Mr King agreed.

The minister hoped there would be more flexibility among staff. "If we do not get flexibility, the cuts will be worse. If teachers are not prepared to be moved around or redeployed to take account of teacher-pupil ratios, for example, schools will suffer, and it could mean the end for some village schools."



Mr Eric Heffer at Central Hall yesterday.

**Anarchists in brawl at Labour rally**

By Craig Seton

More than 50,000 people took part in a Labour Party rally in London yesterday to oppose the Government's spending cuts.

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in which he condemned the Government's "detestable" cuts, particularly those affecting the health and social services.

The rally, which started in Hyde Park, was thought to be the biggest organised by the Labour Party since the final days of the previous Conservative Government.

It was intended to show that the party had got over its election defeat and was opposing the Government with renewed vigour.

The organisers had expected 40,000 people, but Scotland Yard's estimate was that 50,000 people had taken part.

The banner-waving marchers included Labour supporters from all over Britain and thousands of trade unionists, led by miners' brass bands. Members of the Shadow Cabinet and union leaders were at the head of the march. Blindfolded other handicapped people took part.

The route from Hyde Park to the Embankment was lined by thousands of policemen.

A fight broke out at the rear of the hall, which held 2,000 people, and continued for several minutes before the hecklers marched out as police arrived. No arrests were made.

Mr Callaghan, who had been greeted by a mixture of boos and cheers, was heckled by members of extreme left-wing groups throughout his speech.

**Vote for union plan would close Linwood**

From Ronald Fazekas  
Car workers at the Talbot plant at Linwood, Scotland, will decide today whether to take industrial action when the first of 1,250 redundancies are enforced at the factory next month.

The 6,500-hourly-paid workers at Linwood, now owned by Peugeot Circuit of France, meet under a warning from management that the plant could close permanently if the mass meeting decides on any form of industrial action.

In a private letter delivered to the homes of each of the workers, Mr Stanley Dawson, manufacturing director at Linwood, said it was understood that the joint shop stewards recommendation would be for the workers to reject the company's recovery plan, which ends the night shift.

The letter said: "In light of the development it is my duty to inform you that a vote by our employees in favour of the joint shop stewards' recommendation will result in an early meeting to be held to determine or not to continue the Linwood manufacturing operation."

The shop stewards' alternative of a work-sharing scheme and a cut in overtime, the management say, would be so

costly and inefficient that would be impossible for Peugeot to pay its way. That would immediately put the plant in danger.

Closure would be a critical blow to the west of Scotland where contraction in the engineering in recent months had been severe.

It would also endanger some 14,000 jobs at Peugeot factories in England. The engine and gearbox plant, which supplies the Scottish factory, would be particularly vulnerable.

Mr John Cartt, convenor of shop stewards at Linwood, yesterday said the workers would be asked to vote for union alternative. He warned that the future of Linwood, but the stewards recommended would be for the workers to reject the company's recovery plan, which ends the night shift.

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**Universities pay grant up by £31m**

By Our Education Correspondent

Mr James Callaghan, leader of the Opposition, suffered series of defeats at yesterday's meeting of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee.

The left wing swept board on the composition of the commission of inquiry of the party's organization.

The executive voted overwhelmingly to exclude members of the Parliamentary Labour Party from the commission agreed to add to the committee as an observer Mr Michael Cocks, Opposition Chief Whip.

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## Arts Council advisory subcommittees to be cut in reorganization

By Martin Huckerby

**Arts Reporter**  
The Arts Council yesterday decided to abolish nearly two thirds of its advisory subcommittees as part of a reorganization aimed at increasing efficiency and saving money.

In a move that seems certain to be criticized by those who feel they are losing a voice in the council's decisions, it was agreed to "streamline" the operations of the council, cutting the subcommittees of 10 of the council's main advisory panels from 21 to seven.

As a result the number of outsiders on council committees, most of whom are experts in particular fields or representatives of arts organizations, will be reduced by about half.

The work of the subcommittees will be taken over by the main panels, but necessarily much of the preliminary work such as the sifting of applications for grants, will have to be done by the council's officials, thus giving them more control than at present.

Sir Roy Shaw, the council's secretary-general, said yesterday that the decisions implemented the recommendations of a working party set up in 1978. Many other changes have been agreed and they will be made public when the working party's report is available next month.

The composition of the main panels will be altered to ensure that the subjects covered

## Agricultural research to lose 300 jobs

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Three hundred jobs in the Government's agricultural research service are to be lost because of cuts in public spending, Dr Ralph Riley, secretary of the Agricultural Research Council, said in London yesterday. "We hope to achieve this without compulsory redundancies," he said.

That represents a cut of 6 per cent and will be spread over 22 research stations financed wholly or partly by the council. The council's budget was to be cut by £1.8m or 61 per cent in real terms, equal to the cost of running one station for a year.

Dr Riley said: "We are not intending to close any institutes, but to reduce specific activities in them". Recruitment would cease except for

the subcommittees, he said. The main panels will also be reduced, so that may not be easy.

Some details of the report were leaked to the magazine, *Time Out*, which publishes them today and refers to "distinctly undemocratic recommendations". Many critics of the council have called for a more democratic structure and the changes are unlikely to meet their approval.

However, Sir Roy said: "The essence of the operation is to reverse the natural tendency of committees to grow bigger and to proliferate subcommittees." He pointed out that in the past decade the grant administered by the council had increased seven-fold; its staff had increased by only half, and the number of panel and committee members had gone up by 150 per cent.

He said the simplified structure ought to lead to "increasing efficiency, tighter organisation and much-needed financial economies at the outset of what is bound to be a difficult year".

The council has not quite completed its consideration of the committee structure.

The working party that produced the report was asked to review the relationship between the council, its advisers and its senior officers, and particularly the current requirements for assessment, policy-making and servicing the council; the panels and committees.

## RAF 'needs more fighters and quickly'

By Henry Stanshope

Defence Correspondent

The RAF needs more fighters, and it needs them quickly, said Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, Chief of the Air Staff, said yesterday. But even if it had the money, no suitable new aircraft were available, and given the recent manpower crisis it would be difficult to find the pilots.

He confirmed the RAF's stopgap measures to arm a number of Hawk training aircraft with Sidewinder missiles and to bring into service an extra squadron of Lightnings—"still a very useful fighter".

In the medium term the Air Staff proposed to run on the present Phantoms for longer than originally intended, and in the long-term to obtain an additional three fighter squadrons.

That is understood to mean an increased order for the Tornado air defence variant which Sir Michael said is already showing signs of fulfilling RAF expectations of a first-class aircraft.

Meanwhile, the Tornado strike variant was rolling off the production lines, and instructors were due to start work on it next year in preparation for the opening of a joint Anglo-Italian training base at RAF Cottesmore.

Sir Michael, speaking to the Air Public Relations Association, also referred to the successful formation of three reserve RAF Regiment squadrons for the security of RAF airfields at Lossiemouth, Scampton and Honington.

That had provided encouragement to expand the scheme and make greater use of resources and auxiliaries. It is understood that the RAF is considering forming reserve squadrons with Rapier anti-aircraft missiles.

Sir Michael also reported "significant progress" in resolving the RAF's manpower crisis of the past few years. The Government's attitude to defence had had heartening effect on morale, and the tide of men leaving the service was beginning to slacken.

Rerouting was buoyant, too, although the national demand for qualified engineers had been reflected in the RAF.

"The costs of running the council's research programmes have increased by more than £2m beyond those expected when the cash limit was set for its expenditure", Dr Riley said.

The council intended to maintain the value of its payments for projects done at universities. Some were not expected to produce results for several years and could not be stopped halfway.

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The costs of running the council's research programmes have increased by more than £2m

## HOME NEWS

## Protests over closure of Supplementary Benefits Commission

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent  
The closure of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, disclosed in The Times yesterday, was confirmed last night when a White Paper due to be published today began circulating among MPs.

The White Paper also disclosed some of the reforms to the supplementary benefit scheme which are to be outlined in the Bill today. They include reducing the number of children's rates from five to three, bringing short-term national insurance benefits into line with supplementary benefit rates and codifying the items for which lump sums can be given.

Those reforms received a general welcome last night, although there is some anxiety that the change to the children's rates may conceal a cut. The present rates apply to children aged under five from five to 10, 11 to 12, 13 to 16 and 16 to 17. The new ones will reduce the age bands to 0-10, 10-15 and 16-17.

The White Paper suggested that that would mean additional help for children under five, and for those aged 11-15, because they would qualify for higher rates than before. It is expected that the change will be implemented for the first time next year, at the time of the next general increase in benefits in November 1980.

Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, and former director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said the closure would be a great loss to claimants. It also raised the suspicion that the Government did not want to have an independent critical voice at a time when it was making substantial changes to the supplementary benefit scheme.

Doubts were also expressed by Miss Diana Warwick, assistant secretary in charge of the DHSS section of the Civil and Public Services Association.

The SBC had always taken a more radical line than the National Insurance Advisory Committee, which is also to be overtaken by the new body. The CPSA had hoped that any merging of the two bodies would lead to some of the radicalism of the SBC rubbing off on NAIC.

The two issues that concern

Opposition MPs most in the new Bill are its proposals to change the basis on which benefits are raised each year by breaking the link with earnings increases for pensions and other long-term benefits, and the proposed closure of the SBC.

Labour MPs feel so strongly on the first issue that they have already decided to vote against the Bill on second reading.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, a Labour spokesman on social security, said last night: "That change affects nine million pensioners, who would be £5 a week worse off now if their pensions had been linked only to prices in 1974."

The proposed closure of the SBC amounted to the Government "stealing an independent watchdog for the poor" which was fast becoming "a festering sore" to ministers. The SBC had been set up by Parliament as an independent voice, but the new social security advisory committee which would replace it would consist of people hand-picked by ministers.

Miss Ruth Lister, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said the closure would be a great loss to claimants. It also raised the suspicion that the Government did not want to have an independent critical voice at a time when it was making substantial changes to the supplementary benefit scheme.

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## Signal was red, guard tells fatal rail crash inquiry

A guard told an inquiry which began yesterday into a fatal rail crash that he made a desperate dive for his train's brake handle when he saw it was passing a red signal, but he missed and fell and the train collided head-on with another.

Seven people, including the drivers, died and more than 60 were injured in the crash which was outside Gilmour Street station, Paisley, on Easter Monday.

Mr Hunter McNeil, the guard, said that at the station he gave the driver a bell signal indicating that the train was ready to go. The driver acknowledged it.

Signals were not the sole responsibility of the guard, he said, and on some trains a guard would not be able to see a signal while the train was in a station. As the train started to move, he said "that was when I saw the signal at the end of the platform was red".

## THE HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY NOTICE TO THE SOCIETY'S BORROWERS

### Variation of Interest Rates

In accordance with the Society's Rules and the conditions and provisions applicable to its mortgages the rates of interest charged on mortgage accounts will be increased by £3.25 per cent per annum. The rates of interest payable by option mortgage borrowers will also be increased and they will be notified individually of their new rates of interest. The new rates of interest will take effect:

on new mortgages and on existing mortgages having roll numbers A/1756000-(9) and upwards on 1st January 1980 on other mortgages on dates to be notified individually to the borrower concerned.

Borrowers will be notified individually of the new monthly payments they should make.

This notice supersedes the notice of increase of rates advertised in July of this year.

TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 1979



The painting which Professor Anthony Blunt first declared a genuine Poussin self-portrait, then a copy. It is owned by the Gimpel family.

## When Blunt view of a 'Poussin' changed

By Geraldine Norman  
Sal Room Correspondent

"Could Blunt have held it against us all that time?" it mused Jean Gimpel. As an undergraduate at Cambridge Professor Anthony Blunt got a vacation job as tutor to the children of the great Paris art dealer, René Gimpel. Gimpel, in his son's words, was a grand gourgeois and would not permit Blunt, the hired help, to take his meals with the family.

Twenty years later, in the 1950s, Blunt, the great Poussin scholar, ruled that the Poussin "self-portrait" owned by the Gimpels was a copy rather than an original, a decision that cut several noughts off the price at a stroke of his scholarly pen.

However, Blunt had earlier built up the reputation of the Gimpel "self-portrait". It is known from Poussin's letters that he painted two self-portraits during 1649-50 for his friends, Chantelou and Pointel.

The Chantelou portrait has long been in the Louvre, but the Pointel was known only from engravings. In the *Burlington Magazine* for August, 1947, Professor Blunt firmly announced that the Gimpel picture was that painted by Poussin for Pointel.

The quality of the Gimpel picture points almost conclusively against its being a copy.

It has been rubbed in parts and has therefore in some places lost that precision which

we expect in Poussin at that period," he wrote "but the subtlety of the drawing, particularly in the foreshortened hand, and the convincing quality of the modelling in those parts which are perfectly preserved are more than even Poussin's most skillful copyists ever attained."

However, in the 1950s an almost exact replica of the Gimpel picture came to light in the store of the Staatliche Museum, in East Berlin. Peter Gimpel met Professor Blunt, who told him in passing that his version had fallen from grace; the East Berlin "self-portrait" was now considered the original.

Have you seen it?" Peter Gimpel asked Blunt, who replied that he had not; it could not go to East Berlin, as it was behind the iron curtain.

The Gimpel children, who had inherited the painting, were initially furious with the scholar for dismissing their picture.

However, they could see the Berlin picture for themselves when it came to Paris for the big Poussin exhibition at the Louvre in 1960. "I am afraid it is better than ours," Peter Gimpel says.

(Professor Blunt has told *The Times* that he also saw the Berlin picture in 1960.)

"That is the sort of thing that made me lose faith in art you see," Jean Gimpel says. "Artists change once every generations".

## 'Wide access' to MI5 files

By Stewart Tindall

While Professor Blunt, the "fourth man" in the Philby affair, was spying for Russia in MI5 during the last war he was, at one stage part of a programme to spread false information to fool the Germans.

Major Blunt, as he was then, circulated gossip and rumours in the social circles of the London clubs in the hope the titbits would percolate to German agents. The intention was to dupe the Germans with information about promotions and army movements that would cause them to make false strategic decisions.

At the same time, as he admitted in an interview last week, Professor Blunt was working for the Russians. He said that his main task was passing on details of intercepted messages sent by the Germans to their agents in Europe.

He studied the intercepts as part of his work in monitoring the neutral embassies and the governments in exile, two groups considered to be potential security risks.

In her statement on the affair last week Mrs Margaret

Thatcher said it was now denied that Professor Blunt had access to MI5, but not what he had passed. It is thought that as he progressed through MI5 during the war he would have had considerable access to files.

He may have been given

access to something like the

true state of affairs and passed this on to the Russians.

As the train started to move, he said "that was when I saw the signal at the end of the platform was red".

Mr Schonfeld was given bail on Monday but the next day armed himself with a brick, walked up to a policeman outside the bank and threatened to throw it through the window again unless he was arrested.

Det. Constable Geraint Evans said: "It was his wish to be jailed."

Mr Schonfeld, aged 41, unemployed and homeless, admitted having the brick to destroy property of Lloyds and also smashing the window on the previous occasion. Constable Evans said: "He says that if he is released today he will go out and smash the window again."

But he remains staunchly Derryman, a human rights campaigner deeply committed to the town where he grew up in a terrace council house.

Mr Hume was brought up in the shadow of the Bogside, attending school with some of the convicted bombers and gunmen of this staunchly nationalist area.

He fought his way into the respected St. Columb's College and went on to the National

University of Ireland to get a BA (hons) in French and modern history, and a master's degree for research on a thesis on the social and economic history of his home town from 1825 to 50.

"People try to label me an intellectual," he said. "I am not."

The most important part of

Mr Hume's political personality

is undoubtedly his internationalism, which could bring a new flavour to Northern Ireland politics. He sees an industrial role for America in the Irish question.

There are ties of blood

between Ireland and America.

Sixteen million Irish-Americans

say they have a legitimate

interest. To confine the party

directly to Northern Ireland

is flying in the face of

reality."

Mr Hume is married, is 42, has five children aged 13 to 7; his wife Patricia has given up primary teaching to become his full-time secretary; he is an avowed Roman Catholic having once entered training for the priesthood.

He accepts the label "moderate". There is no instant solution to the Irish question, he says.

He has been the party's main

thinker, the biggest influence

on policy since its inception,

and an unswerving critic of

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## Fundamental reform of obscenity law proposed

By Marcel Berlitz  
Legal Correspondent

Fundamental reform of the obscenity laws are proposed in a report published yesterday. They include the scrapping of the present test of obscenity and their replacement by a new test based on what is "offensive" to "reasonable people".

The Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship, under the chairmanship of Professor Bernard Williams, Provost of King's College, Cambridge, recommends that the written word should no longer be subject to the obscenity laws.

People wanting to buy pornographic picture magazines, or see pornographic films, would be able to do so in strictly controlled circumstances, ensuring that the general public was not subjected to offensive displays, either in shopwindows or outside cinemas.

But there would be a total ban on anything which sexually exploited children under 16, or where it seemed that actual physical injury was caused to the model or actor. Most live sex shows would also be banned.

The committee also specifically rejects Dr Court's assertions that sexual offences should be for the court to determine, applying the "offence to reasonable people" test. There would be no right of private prosecution.

The committee proposes that the existing film censorship machinery should be scrapped and replaced by a statutory film commission board, with 12 members representing a range of interests and skills.

The 13 members of the committee were unanimous. They included a circuit judge, a town chief constable, a law professor and Mr David Robinson, film critic of *The Times*.

The existing law is a mess, the committee said. The law was scattered among a large number of statutes; there were inconsistencies and anomalies. Such terms as "indecent" "obscene" and "a tendency to deprave and corrupt" had our lived their useful lives.

The principal object of the proposed new law should be, according to the committee, "to prevent certain kinds of material causing offence to reasonable people or being available to young people." Only a small class of material, however, should be forbidden to those who want it and are willing to seek it out.

According to the committee, the evidence submitted to it showed a "remarkable balance of opinion" that the principal way of controlling pornography should be to restrict its availability, and that the main objective of the law should be to protect the public from the nuisance of offensive material in places to which normal life happens to take them.

The committee devotes a lengthy chapter to an analysis of the research carried out on the possible links between pornographic and violent material and "criminal behaviour. In particular, it deals in depth with the work done by Dr John Court, a South Australian psychologist, whose findings were backed by the Festival of Light and Mrs Mary Whitehouse.

It finds Dr Court's thesis that the availability of pornography is linked to an increase in sexual offences unconvincing, criticises his methodology as unsound and concludes that there is no sound scientific basis for his opinions. The basis for his opinions is

that he has not been able to

show that the material in question is "offensive to reasonable people" because of the way it deals with violence, cruelty or horror, or sexual, faecal or urinary functions or genital organs.

The total refusal of a certificate would be justified if the film contained material prohibited by law or was unacceptable because of the manner in which it depicts violence, sexual activity or crime.

It would be an offence, triable at the magistrate's court, to show a film contrary to the classification. There would be no right of private prosecution.

Some material, however,

would be banned altogether. The committee defines such prohibited material as consisting of photographs and films confined to premises to which only those over 18 were admitted. The shop would have to have a prominent warning notice about the kind of publication sold, and this would be visible to the public in general. The shop would present identification card except for its name and an identification card of the person involved has been physically harmed in the production of the photograph or film.

It would be an offence, punishable with up to three years' imprisonment, to distribute or show, send through the post, or take a photograph or film coming under the prohibition, and it would be no defence to say that the person consented to the act being filmed or photographed.

Moreover, in stringent the difficulty of having to prove the age of a child depicted in an imported magazine, or show that someone was actually hurt, the committee proposes that it should be left to the court to decide whether the criteria have been met, on whatever evidence they have, which could amount to appearances only.

Live performances ("live shows") involving actual sexual activity of a kind which would be offensive to reasonable people would be prohibited, as would any live performances involving the exploitation of a child under 16. The penalty for anyone convicted of putting on or taking part in a prohibited live sex show would be up to three years' imprisonment.

Visual depictions of bestiality would not be banned. The idea that pornography of this kind has a corrupting effect on those who see it appears to have no basis in fact.

The members of the committee are:

Professor Bernard Williams, chairman of the Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship.

Mr Ben Hoberman, London solicitor.

Judge John Leonard, QC, Common Sergeant.

Mr Richard Matthews, former Chief Constable of Warwickshire.

Mr David Robinson, film critic, *The Times*.

Ms Sheila Rothwell, senior lecturer, Henley Administrative College.

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# OUR WELCOME to the **JAMAHIRIYA\***

**Libyan Arab Airlines,**  
with its continuously developing route system,  
is very conscious of the need to back  
expansion in the air with top class facilities  
on the ground.

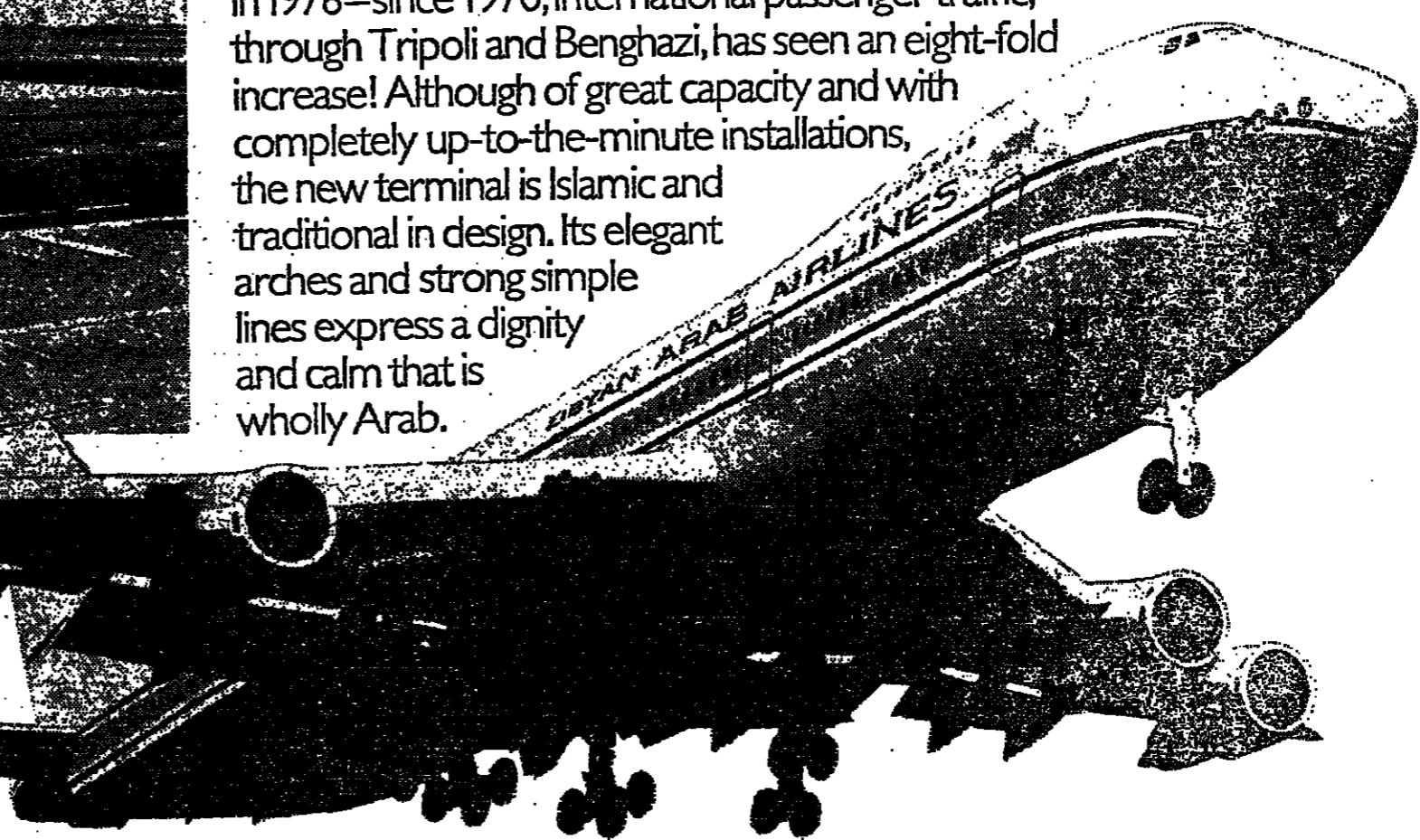
As well as the desire to provide passengers  
with a first rate Airline service, this striving for  
the highest standards is part of the revolutionary spirit  
of the Jamahiriya—something we aim to see reflected  
in everything we do.

There's no better example of this than our  
new airport at Tripoli.  
Here, you meet us on our home ground.  
It's where we welcome you to the Jamahiriya.

We're proud of our Airport,  
one of the most advanced in the world,  
and we'd like to take this opportunity to  
show you round...



The new terminal at Tripoli Airport was opened  
in 1978—since 1970, international passenger traffic,  
through Tripoli and Benghazi, has seen an eight-fold  
increase! Although of great capacity and with  
completely up-to-the-minute installations,  
the new terminal is Islamic and  
traditional in design. Its elegant  
arches and strong simple  
lines express a dignity  
and calm that is  
wholly Arab.



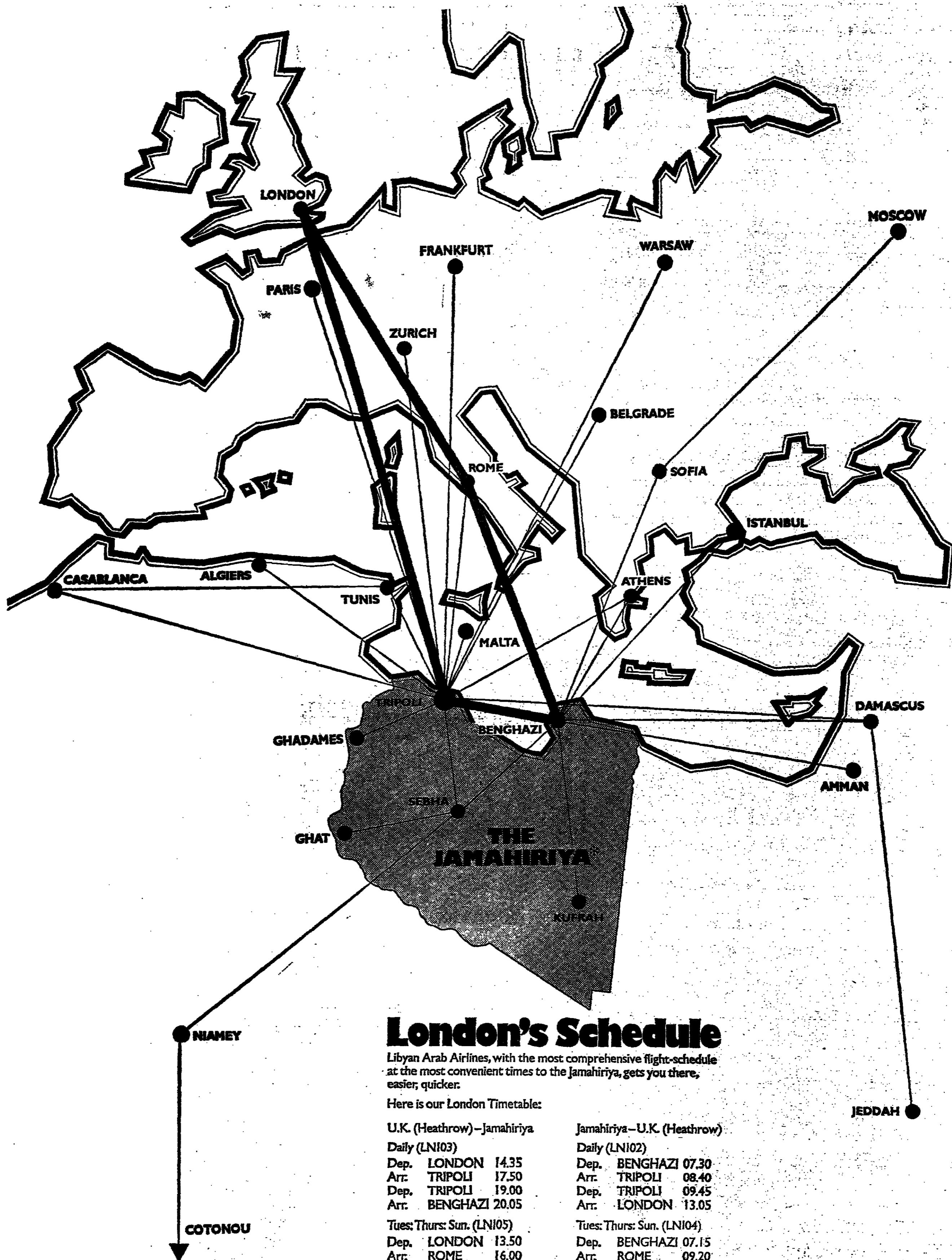
## Coming soon

Early next year Libyan Arab Airlines  
will be taking delivery of its new 747 fleet—  
three aircraft in all—another dramatic leap  
forward in the airlines policy of continuous  
expansion. Following as it does, so closely on  
the tenth Anniversary of the Revolution, this  
adds a potent affirmation of all that has  
happened since September 1st 1969, and carries  
forward the surge of development that will  
take the Jamahiriya into the eighties.



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## London's Schedule

Libyan Arab Airlines, with the most comprehensive flight-schedule at the most convenient times to the Jamahiriya, gets you there, easier, quicker.

Here is our London Timetable:

**U.K. (Heathrow)–Jamahiriya**

Daily (LNI03)

Dep. LONDON 14.35  
Arr. TRIPOLI 17.50  
Dep. TRIPOLI 19.00  
Arr. BENGHAZI 20.05

Tues: Thurs: Sun. (LNI05)

Dep. LONDON 13.50  
Arr. ROME 16.00  
Dep. ROME 17.00  
Arr. BENGHAZI 19.00

**Jamahiriya–U.K. (Heathrow)**

Daily (LNI02)

Dep. BENGHAZI 07.30  
Arr. TRIPOLI 08.40  
Dep. TRIPOLI 09.45  
Arr. LONDON 13.05

Tues: Thurs: Sun. (LNI04)

Dep. BENGHAZI 07.15  
Arr. ROME 09.20  
Dep. ROME 10.10  
Arr. LONDON 12.25

London Office: Libyan Arab Airlines, 88 Piccadilly, London W1V 9HD  
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## HOME NEWS

## Call for technology to have priority in all school teaching

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Technology must be made part of the mainstream of education in schools, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, told a conference in London yesterday on education's contribution to Britain's economic recovery.

Technology should no longer be regarded as a poor relation, or something for the non-academic pupil, he said. It must both infuse the whole curriculum being made part of the basic approach to literacy, numeracy and dexterity, and be encouraged in its own right.

The evidence from the Schools Inspectorate's review of secondary education, due to be published next week, would not be reassuring. It would demand attention and action.

The recently published Government report on local authority arrangements for the school curriculum showed that Britain had "a long way to go".

While most authorities said they were trying to promote the development of a basic un-

## Large food price rises forecast next year

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

Food companies would have to make large price rises next year to cover sharp increases in costs, Mr Derrick Hornby, president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, said in London yesterday. "We are unable to keep absorbing higher costs of raw materials and packaging."

The relationship between education and economic success was crucial, Mr Macfarlane said. He believed the mismatch between educational content and the needs of industry had contributed significantly to Britain's economic decline.

Mr Macfarlane hinted that the Government would make an announcement before Christmas about financial aid for the promotion of education in microelectronics. Speakers at yesterday's conference, organized by the Standing Conference on Schools, Science and Technology, expressed regret at the "disappearance" of the £12.5m promised by the Labour Government for education in microelectronics.

The conference passed resolutions calling for more imaginative solutions to the severe shortage of teachers of physics, mathematics and of craft, design and technology.

## Move to expedite abortion Bill angers some MPs

By Our Parliamentary Staff

MPs opposed to changes in the abortion law protested angrily yesterday when Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for North Ayrshire and Ewe, successfully moved a motion requiring the Commons committee considering his Abortion (Amendment) Bill to sit three days a week instead of one.

He has not charged opponents of his controversial Bill with filibustering, but thinks progress has been too slow for any chance of the report stage being reached on February 1.

The Bill makes further provisions with respect to the termination of pregnancy by registered medical practitioners,

derstanding of contemporary economic, social and political life, it was clear that such activity varied greatly in depth and quality, and was far from reaching all pupils.

The relationship between education and economic success was crucial, Mr Macfarlane said. He believed the mismatch between educational content and the needs of industry had contributed significantly to Britain's economic decline.

Mr Barrie Williams, deputy director-general of the federation, said that the cost of living was rising by 16 per cent a year while the cost of food was increasing by only 12 per cent. "That gap is going to be narrowed," he added.

But the federation, which represents most of the food companies in Britain, does not accept that farmers should charge higher prices. "I do not think that the farmers need it," Mr Hornby said. "They have done very nicely, thank you."

He rejected the claim by the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales for a substantial price rise through a devaluation of the "green pound" by a record 12 per cent in December. "If the farmers go on putting their prices up and up, their consumption will go down and down, and they will be out of business," he said.

"I believe that butter is the classic example, with surpluses all over the Community so that it has to be sold cheaply to eastern Europe, and where consumption across the Community is going down."

Mr James Cleminson, deputy president of the federation, said there should be sitings twice a day, three days a week.

Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Central Food, protested at this "draconian" use of power by the Bill's supporters. They did not seem to care about the overwhelming amount of medical opinion against it.

Without adequate time for discussion "lies, distortions and exaggerations" could fly out before MPs had time to do anything about them, he said.

The motion was carried by nine votes to five.

## Government reneging on conservation commitments, amenity groups say

By John Young

Planning Reporter

An unprecedented and serious confrontation is building up between influential amenity groups and the Government which they say, is reneging on its commitment to conserve the countryside.

In a speech to the Royal Town Planning Institute summer school in York last September, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said that conservation was perhaps his prime responsibility. National parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of special scientific interest had to be preserved.

Since then, those words have been thrown angrily back in his face in statements from bodies including the Government-sponsored Countryside Commission, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Ramblers' Association and the Commons Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society.

## Plea not to cut aid to problem drinkers

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The all-party Parliamentary Panel Affairs Group today criticizes the Government for cutting off from next spring money to local voluntary organizations working with drunks.

A statement from the group says that many of the organizations will vanish if particularly regiments that are aided only two small districts can no longer look after people referred there by police. Future financing of one of them is under threat.

"In 1978 there were 100,756 convictions for drunkenness and 2,710 reconvictions into prison of people convicted of drunkenness offences."

It is wasteful to treat people that way, the group says. It urges the Secretary of State for Social Services to think about continuing the supply of money to places for problem drinkers until the full implications of the May report on prisons has been properly considered.

## Police say man admitted spouse murder

From Our Correspondent

St Albans

Peter West, aged 39, a storeman was said at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday to have confessed to the killing of his lover's husband.

Det Supt Neil Dickens said that when he mentioned the word "spade", tears had come to Mr West's eyes. Mr West is alleged to have killed Mr Fredrick Chapman with a spade after Mrs Margaret Chapman had given her husband sleeping pills that made him unconscious.

Mr West of Jackman's Estate, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, and Mrs Chapman, aged 32, also of Jackman's Estate, both deny murdering Mr Chapman last February.

The trial continues today.

At least four issues have been identified, of which perhaps the most controversial is the Government's stated intention not to introduce moorland conservation orders, as recommended by Lord Porchester in his report on Exmoor two years ago.

The others are its failure to provide greater protection for the wetlands of the Broads and the Somerset Levels, and its refusal to designate the North Pennines as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The official view of the Exmoor controversy was contained in the sixth and last of a series of recent consultation papers on the forthcoming Wildlife and Countryside Bill. Ministers were said to be unconvinced that there was a case for compulsory moorland conservation orders, as proposed by the previous Government.

The Countryside Commission claims that voluntary agreements with farmers have not worked, and need to be backed

## Houses 'should be designed for change in fuel supply'

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

A proposal for an energy impact statement on building projects by the state, the nationalized industries and local authorities was outlined in London yesterday by Sir William Haworth, chairman of the Government's advisory council on energy conservation.

He said in an address to the Institution of Municipal Engineers on energy conservation for local authorities that coal would have to flow across international frontiers like oil had in the past.

Combined heat and power networks would have to be adopted for industrial and residential zones, and new buildings designed to allow for a switch in fuel supplies.

He pointed out that if we did not do so there was a danger of locking our grandchildren into an energy system that could not be sustained.

The main thread of his advice was that no new industry

trial, commercial, administrative or residential building should be built making it impossible to change from oil to gas or coal or to any other source of fuel.

Sir William, Professor of Thermodynamics at Cambridge University, argued for the necessity to keep these options open, particularly in the light of events after the World Energy Conference in 1977.

Since then 16 Western countries with the biggest interest in nuclear power had revised downwards their estimates of demand for electricity from this source from between 900 and 1,800 gigawatts to 500 to 900 gw.

The oil depletion policy of Opec countries was bringing oil production to a plateau faster than expected. Against this background, estimates for coal had been revised upwards from 1,000 million tonnes for the West by the 1990s to more than 2,000 million tonnes; hence the reason for the development of an international coal trade.

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As labour is so expensive, we rely on our children and elders to help in the catering industry, which in turn supports your main economy", the group said.

"Our percentage of unemployed is very high", the Chinese Action Group said.

"and most of us, with the exception of professional representatives, have in fact existed in our own sub-economy of small businesses."

It regretted particularly the £100,000 minimum capital requirement for people entering to set up business, restrictions on dependants and the limited number of work permits.

The White Paper proposals destroyed any possibility for starting new enterprises or developing family businesses "for the mutual benefit of our communities".

"As labour is so expensive, we rely on our children and elders to help in the catering industry, which in turn supports your main economy", the group said.

The eligibility of obtaining residence after four years of employment in this country, which so far had been a discriminatory measure, would be at the mercy of the employer as a result of Government proposal.

Mr Whitelaw's plan for short, sharp shocks runs into opposition

## Punitive regime opposed by Home Office

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw's plans for short, sharp shocks for children at Send detention centre, near Woking, have run into the entrenched opposition of a rather different Home Office philosophy.

The Home Office view, given on three separate occasions, is that stiffer penalties will not work.

Any regime made deliberately more punitive would run a risk of infringing the principles laid down in the United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners.

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EV PARLIAMENT, November 28, 1979.

## MP pleads: do not be seduced by PR system

House of Commons

Sir Ian Gilmore, Lord Privy Seal, refused to give an undertaking that there would be a proportional representation system in the next British elections to the European Parliament. Mr David Wigley (Carmarthen, Pl) asked what progress was being made on discussions about the common system of election to be followed for the next election to the European Parliament.

Mr David Wigley (Carmarthen, Pl) (continued) he asked what progress was being made on discussions about the common system of election to be followed for the next election to the European Parliament.

Sir Ian Gilmore—Article 1 (3) of the Treaty of Rome provides that the European Parliament shall draw up proposals for decisions by direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all member states.

It goes on to say that the Council, acting unanimously, shall then lay down the appropriate provisions which it shall recommend to members of the European Parliament in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

The European Parliament have not yet drawn up proposals.

Mr Wigley—Will the Lord Privy Seal give an assurance on behalf of the Government that they will accept that since this is the policy adopted by the other countries, they will adopt the PR system? (Shouts of "No")—and consider proposing the regional list system, as recommended by the previous Government?

Sir Ian Gilmore—We rule nothing out but there is a long way to go. We have to see what the European Parliament proposes before we give any assurance.

Mr Eric Deakin (Waltham Forest, Walthamstow, Lab)—Will the Government be concerned to ensure that the European Parliament or to weaken the assembly?

Sir Ian Gilmore—I do not think that arises. It will not be a matter which comes into our consideration under either electoral system. I am unable to come to a judgment on the matter.

Mr James Hill (Southampton, Test, C)—Will the minister believe of the situation towards PR in Europe? Is it not also very apparent that European Members of Parliament are having an identification problem already, without PR on a regional basis?

Sir Ian Gilmore—I am not sure that I accept entirely what Mr Hill says. I do not believe that people will be able to identify with anybody having an identification problem, but having voted for PR several times here... (Some cheers and interruptions.)

That does not alter the Government view that we have to wait to see what the European Parliament propose before we make a decision ourselves.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab)—Since there is no proposal, I can understand the Lord Privy Seal not wishing to overstate the case, but all the same, it should be made plain to governments of Europe who will be considering this matter and also to European Assembly members, that there is a strong view on both sides of this House against the introduction of PR in Europe. It does not follow, quite contrary to the absurd proposition put forward by the President of the Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins who obviously has influence in these matters.

(Laughter.)

Sir Ian Gilmore—It is not for me to enter into the internal Labour Party debates as all, but I will indicate what Mr Shore says. This House, in votes in the last Parliament, made its majority opinion perfectly clear.

## UK newspapers not on general sale in Russia

Instructions had been given to British embassies in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe to monitor and report regularly on implementation of the Helsinki Agreement. Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during question time.

Mr Ian Spratt (Aberdeen, South, C) had asked what regular steps were taken to monitor breaches.

Mr Hurd added—Information is still sent through our embassies. Summary of the results will continue to be made available to the House at six-monthly intervals until the review conference in Madrid next year.

Mr Spratt—In he satisfied with progress in persuading the Soviet Union to fulfil their Helsinki pledge for a free flow of information in and out of the country and inside the Soviet Union?

Which British newspapers, and how many copies, are freely available in Moscow and what is Mr Hurd doing to increase their number?

Mr Hurd (Mid-Oxon, C)—We are not satisfied. There has been some improvement since Helsinki but not enough. This is something to be pursued at the Madrid review.

British newspapers are found too frequently in Soviet tourist hotels. The Morning Star has preference, which not all of us would think justified.

Mr James Lamond (Oldham, East, Lab)—Is there any monitoring of Helsinki? Has there been any evidence of dissident workers who publish pamphlets and newsletters? The government's policy being dismissed for it? (Interruptions.)

Mr Hurd—No. That is not a matter for me.

## Responsible pay bargaining only effective way forward: important talks next week

There was no alternative to the Government's economic policies in the depressing conditions it faced, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer (East Surrey, C) said when he opened a debate on the economy by moving a Government motion. That the House supports the economic policies of the Government.

He said the action he had taken was mainly essential to establish a firm, fair contract over monetary and fiscal policy. The increase in minimum lending rate was no more welcome to the Government than anyone else, but the Government had not hesitated to act when such measures became clearly necessary.

Market judgments had been maintained consistent with our monetary stance, with that objective in mind, it will continue to keep all our policies under review, including plans for public spending.

There were some who argued that monetarism was not enough and there was still a steady though small scale demand. The immediate reasons for the Government's action were only a symptom of the more serious economic weaknesses they had inherited.

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The Lancia Beta 2000 has always been a rather special car from the moment you get behind the wheel you know it's going to be no ordinary experience.

The performance is exactly what you would expect from Lancia.

# THE LANCIA BETA. ALL THE DRIVE... WITHOUT ALL THE DRIVING.

A powerful 2-litre twin overhead cam engine provides markable acceleration and a top speed of 112 m.p.h.\*

At the same time, the legendary Lancia handling and adholding mean you can relax in the knowledge that

you're in complete control.

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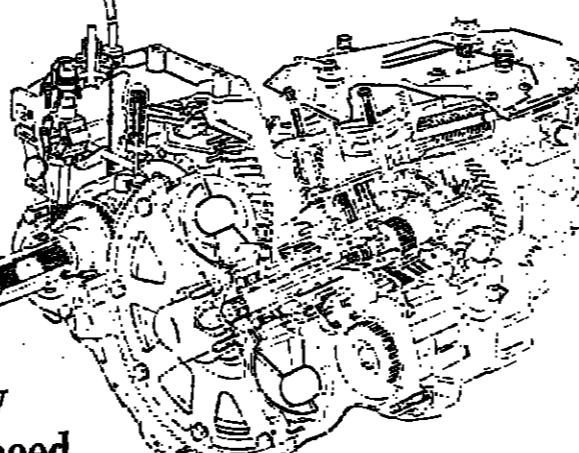
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/ERSEAS

## Supreme Soviet hears stark economic recast since the war

Michael Binyon

Nov. 28  
Soviet who assembled  
all parts of the Soviet  
today heard one of the  
stark economic forecasts for  
country since the Second

War. It came hard on  
of a tough speech  
by President Brezhnev  
describing this year's  
as far from satisfactory.

res presented by Mr  
Babakov, chairman of  
the Planning Committee,

opening session of the  
Soviet Parliament.  
The Soviet  
that the Soviet Union  
was seriously behind its

in the current five-year  
and that targets for next  
output in a number of  
ctors of industry have  
slid down considerably.

figures also showed that  
ear's grain harvest was

rst four years. Only

illion tonnes of grain

en harvested compared

to last year's record of 237

tonnes.

drop caused by a severe  
and a spring drought in  
arts of the country will  
the year's economic

result in a cutback  
a fifth of the national product. The

will have to spend

a hard currency on in-

grain imports from

Aleksei Kosygin, the

Prime Minister who has

responsibility for the

was absent from

Supreme Soviet ses-

sion is 75 and has not

een for a month and

officials say he is re-

son an illness.

Nikolai Tikhonov, his

puty Prime Minister,

sterday made a full

## Russia's Stalinist rulers wooed by 'Pravda'

Our Own Correspondent

Nov. 28  
unusually conciliatory  
marking the thirty-fifth  
of the liberation of  
from the Nazis, Pravda  
uggested that Moscow  
like to normalize its  
th Albania and did not  
thing to divide the two

Russians had always  
the difficulties in  
ian relations as  
the Communist Party  
er said, and these  
now be overcome in the  
n interests of all anti-  
stic forces.

ia broke off relations  
ow 18 years ago.  
the Soviet leadership  
onism and interference  
ia's internal affairs.  
then forged a close  
with China, which was  
two years ago when  
turn was condemned

member of the ruling 14-man  
Politburo and today sat imme-  
diately behind President Brez-  
nev in the rows reserved on  
the platform for the Soviet lead-  
ership.

Todays figures show that the  
Soviet Union's overall growth  
this year will be only about 3.6  
per cent compared with the  
target of 5.7 per cent set by  
Mr Babakov last year.

Last night, Mr Brezhnev told  
the plenum of the Communist  
Party's powerful Central Com-  
mittee that 1979 had been the  
most difficult of the current  
five-year plan.

He said the country was run-  
ning short of energy, railway  
transport was in chaos, not  
enough metal was being pro-  
duced, meat and milk were  
scarce, food was poor and such  
common consumer items as  
toothpaste, washing powder,  
nishes and bread and baby  
nappies were hard to find.

Mr Brezhnev said far too lit-  
tle was being done to raise  
industrial efficiency and the  
quality of work, and this had  
led to bottlenecks and short-  
ages. vast funds had been  
invested and the labour force  
had been increased, but the  
final result was less than it  
should have been and less  
than the country's potential  
allowed. As a result the  
economy was suffering from  
imbalances, shortages and in-  
sufficient reserves.

The Soviet leader, often  
using hard-hitting language,  
said a great many ministries  
and enterprises were unable to  
overcome the forces of inertia.  
And he blamed several minis-  
ters by name, including the  
Minister of Railways and the  
Minister of Power, for dis-  
organization, poor results and  
shortcomings that affected the  
rest of industry.

## Pentagon ready to punish Iran

From Patrick Brugan  
Washington, Nov. 28

The high holy days of the  
Shah of Iran are tomorrow  
and Friday and it is expected  
that the followers of the Ayatollah  
Khomeini will use the  
occasion to further dramatic  
demonstrations in Iran against  
the Americans.

On Sunday Iran will hold a

referendum on the new Islamic  
constitution. When these events  
are safely over and the Shah is  
back in Mexico, it is hoped the  
hostages will be released.

According to observers here,  
there is one other clear-cut  
possible outcome to events.  
Some or all of the hostages may  
be murdered—either lynched by  
the mob in the American  
Embassy in Tehran or dis-  
patched after a "trial" by the  
mullahs. If that happens, there  
will be an immediate and  
violent American reaction.

In either event, President  
Carter will act immediately  
and presumably the terms of  
any action are already decided.  
Another hypothesis is that the  
Shah will return to Mexico and  
the hostages will be kept im-  
prisoned indefinitely.

However much the long-term  
national interest may decree  
that the United States should  
wait patiently on events, for  
fear that complete chaos would  
bring the Russians to the Gulf,  
a massacre of the hostages in  
Tehran would bring instant and  
violent retaliation.

A formidable American fleet  
is being assembled in the  
Arabian Sea, off the coast of  
Iran. Its most powerful unit  
the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk  
has not arrived yet. Ten ships,  
including the aircraft carrier  
Midway, are there already; the  
Kitty Hawk is accompanied by a  
cruiser, two destroyers and a  
frigate.

There are two, equally com-  
pelling reasons for the conclu-  
sion that this force would be  
used against Iran if the host-  
ages were killed. The first is  
America's position in the  
world: What value would any-  
one put on an alliance with the  
United States if it did not  
respond to a direct attack on  
itself?

The Americans no longer  
want to play the role of world  
policeman, but they have great  
interests abroad and they must  
be protected.

The second reason is domes-  
tic. There has been a change in  
American opinion. The isolat-  
ionist, non-interventionist, left-  
wing tide, which reached its  
height in the riots after the  
American invasion of Kampuchea,  
is running out swiftly.

This does not mean that the  
American people would be  
happy to invade Iran. But at  
the very least they would de-  
mand the use of the United  
States Air Force in retaliation  
for any murder of the hostages.

If military action is taken,  
there is no shortage of targets.  
The Ayatollah would be wise to  
remove himself to a place of  
safety.

One reason being discussed  
here for a less drastic reaction  
—destruction of the Abadan  
refinery, for example—is that  
the West's long-term hope for  
Iran must be the establishment  
of a "moderate" government  
(that is, one responsible and  
anti-Communist) which will  
have to depend on the armed  
forces for internal security.

There is little left of the  
Shah's proud armies, but it  
would not help the West's  
future position if the United  
States destroys whatever re-  
mains. Many soldiers have  
joined in the anti-American  
demonstrations, but the links  
between the Iranian armed  
forces and the United States  
were strong.

Minister ousted: The ruling  
Revolutionary Council in Te-  
hran today appointed the direc-  
tor of state television and  
radio, Mr Sadegh Qorbaieh, as  
Foreign Minister, replacing Mr  
Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, Paris  
news agency reported.

American hostages held at  
the embassy here are allowed  
walks in the compounds every  
day, take baths at least twice  
a week, and eat better than  
their captors, a leader of the  
students occupying the mission  
said.

## Official attacks augur ill for King's democracy wall

Nov. 28—The future  
of the "democracy wall"  
leak today after harsh  
on the year-old forum  
by members of the  
People's Congress,

equivalent of parlia-  
ment of deputies pro-  
posed "resolute measures  
to desecrate with Xian  
the New China news  
in a report on a  
meeting of the  
Commanding committee.

It say whether any deci-  
the wall had been  
200-yard stretch of  
brick along Peking's  
Boulevard was first  
"democracy wall" last  
ben the authorities  
tearing down posters  
cificated the state, and  
a focus of dissent  
own to the Chinese as  
his name of a street  
est attacks on the wall

came after last month's trial of  
Wei Jingsheng, a political activ-  
ist, who was jailed for 15 years  
on charges of passing military  
secrets to a foreigner and of  
counter-revolutionary agitation.

The attack seemed to have  
been soured off by the recent  
republication in Reference  
News, a daily newspaper with  
a circulation of about 10 mil-  
lion and distributed to high-  
ranking officials, of a story in  
an American newspaper that  
spoke of contacts between  
the activists and foreigners.

The unofficial transcript of  
Mr Wei's trial, on the wall for  
the past few weeks, also speaks  
of his relations with foreigners.

The news agency today  
quoted Mr Zhang Wenyu, a  
deputy, as telling the standing  
committee that there should be  
severe punishment for oppo-  
nents of the Communist system.

"who collude with foreigners  
and ask the mao money and  
political materials to carry out  
activists against the socialist  
system."

## a to open oute ongkong

5. Nov. 28

will celebrate the lunar  
(which begins on Feb-  
) by inaugurating a  
passenger liner service  
Shanghai and Hong  
13,000-ton Belgian ship  
carry 500 passengers  
bought for the service  
be named Shanghai.

resman for the China  
Navigation Company  
tong said that the  
would take two and a  
and that cheap return  
ould be arranged for  
ranging from private  
modation to a multi-  
for nearly 200 pas-

rent a  
lf ball'  
m IBM.

We're more typing than  
rents, rent a golf ball'  
cting typewriter from  
to 24 weeks rental  
with extensions  
deposit Service  
d. alone Coin Share  
578 9345 or call round  
IBM Retail Centre,  
Wigmore St., W1

## Tension and fear continue in the Seychelles

By Our Foreign Staff

Two weeks after the quashing  
of what President Albert René  
of the Seychelles said was an  
attempted coup, the islands are  
still tense. The President's

Tanzanian troops check vehicles  
and their occupants at frequent  
intervals and many of those  
arrested are detained without  
charge.

The plot was attributed to  
foreign businessmen wanting  
to make Mahe into a gambling  
and arms dealing centre". It  
was also alleged that there was  
a group of mercenaries waiting  
in Durban to be flown in to  
support the usurpers. However,  
some prominent local people  
were arrested as well as  
foreigners.

Among those still held, the  
President's supporters  
reluctant but not before some  
of the President's supporters  
attacked the ringleaders.

In 1978 Mr René announced  
that he had averted a planned  
coup and about 20 people were  
arrested. Most were released  
after 10 weeks and all but four  
of them were expelled from the  
Seychelles, according to reports  
at the time.

Despite the reported coup  
attempt there appears to be  
little threat to the President  
who has had strong, highly  
visible support, from the  
Tanzanians since he was brought  
to power in the coup of 1977  
which ousted Mr James

Iranians plan to auction off carpets, furniture and other treasures  
that the imperial family were forced to leave behind them

## The Shah's palace yields up its gilded secrets

From Robert Fisk  
Tehran, Nov. 28

If Richard III really did  
offer his kingdom for a horse,  
then the Shah of Iran seems to  
have paid for his freedom with  
a clutch of palaces, a heap of  
priceless Persian carpets, a  
Marc Chagall sketch, 22-carat  
gold seventeenth-century model  
of a Chinese slave ship, a two-  
storey library, a set of pianos  
and books and a music collec-  
tion in ecstasy, and two solid  
gold telephones.

Standing beneath the silver  
birches on the windy lawn of the  
Niavaran Palace today, an Iranian  
Government official made one of the more historic  
sales of the century sound like  
nothing but a momentary hiccup  
in the progress of the revolution—which is, perhaps,  
just what it will turn out to be.

"We will put the contents  
up for auction", he said.  
Then the palaces will be  
turned into museums."

We were left to watch a tur-  
banned mullet and two men  
and presumably the terms of  
any action are already decided.  
Another hypothesis is that the  
Shah will return to Mexico and  
the hostages will be kept im-  
prisoned indefinitely.

However much the long-term  
national interest may decree  
that the United States should  
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forces and the United States  
were strong.

Minister ousted: The ruling  
Revolutionary Council in Te-  
hran today appointed the direc-  
tor of state television and  
radio, Mr Sadegh Qorbaieh, as  
Foreign Minister, replacing Mr  
Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, Paris  
news agency reported.

American hostages held at  
the embassy here are allowed  
walks in the compounds every  
day, take baths at least twice  
a week, and eat better than  
their captors, a leader of the  
students occupying the mission  
said.



A bronze bust of the Shah, still over his palace library

the former Israeli Foreign  
Minister, lay on a lowly shelf  
with the author's handwritten  
dedication to "his Imperial  
Majesty, the Shah of Shahs".  
On another rack were the  
Goebbels diaries.

In the Shah's personal office,  
the guards could scarcely re-  
strain us from dialling a line  
on the gold telephone.

On a balcony above the liv-  
ing room, a rifle with a rifle  
on his shoulder watched with  
an expression of perceptible  
concern while I played an  
execrable two-finger version of  
Bach's 'Air on a G String' on a  
harpischord, presented as a  
gift to the Shah by King Baudouin  
and Queen Fabiola of the Belgians.





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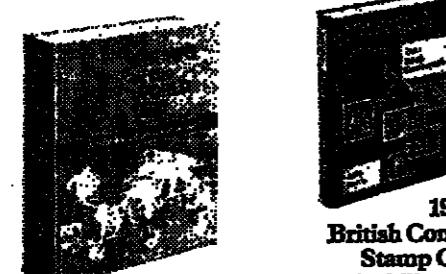
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A hilarious story from Jackanory by Joan Aiken.  
75p

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BBC  
PUBLICATIONS

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## SPECIAL REPORTS

Special Reports to appear in January, 1980, are:

### JANUARY

- 7 Continental Motoring
- 15 Arab Construction
- 23 Singapore
- 25 Audio Visual Aids
- 28 Eire

## The light brigade

The Oxford Book of American Light Verse (Oxford, £5.50), though frankly a bit of a mess, contains quite a few pleasant surprises, and one of the best is to find the which President of the United States exploring the possibilities of drag. Others include Vladimir Nabokov comparing a neighbour at dinner ("I warn you, she announced, 'I eat Dr. James'"); The Feast of the Monkeys (The Feast of the Monkeys); Oscar Hammerstein writing bitterly about money and starvation in *Allegro*; Anthony Hecht on Matthew Arnold's girl ("The Dover Bitch") and Roy Blount Jr on a story in *Newswalk* about Wayne Sleep:

A dreamlike leap  
By England's Sleep!  
He didn't dose.  
He did a doze.  
His legs arose.  
In curlicues.

Perfection, too, is Ambrose Bierce's definition of an egotist as "A person of low taste, more interested in himself than in me". But such pleasures take some finding. When Kingsley Amis collected *The New Oxford Book of Light Verse* in 1977, he omitted American poets almost entirely—partly from inclination, perhaps, but chiefly because this anthology by William Harmon had already been planned to complement it. Auden's Anglo-American tradition in the original Oxford Book of Light Verse of 1938, now reprinted as a paperback (Oxford, £3.50), was being cut in two. All anthologists conduct campaigns in taste—the more personal the more campaigning—and as Amis departed radically from the populist tone of Auden so, from the start, does Harmon take issue with Amis.

The Professor of English at Chapel Hill is genial enough, but irredeemably donnish and windy, and instead of Amis's "drollness" he offers a wholly conscientious apology. Harmon's first attempt to define ways in which American Light Verse is peculiarly American and then writes of the dark, destructive side of comedy: "This Dionysian anarchic id-spirit of misrule seems to represent the pre-social and pre-logical Individual-as-dear to American conservatives as to Jean-Jacques Rousseau—the individual who can turn every solemn civic utterance into rude and incurious parody."

For heaven's sake! None of this would matter more than the normal difference between a dissertation and a seminar did not a sense of purpose in the choice of the poems themselves prove equally elusive. There is simply too much: the vision blurs. Amis compressed more than 400 years of English poetry into 121 poems and 329 pages; Harmon, with half that number of years to work on, takes half as many poets again and 528 pages to make his choice. Inevitably, and unnecessarily, the general level of verse is far lower than in the English collection, and some of it—regarding the representation and diminishing the talents like "Orpheus C. Kerr", John Greenleaf Whittier, James Randolph Phyllis McGinley and Ogden Nash—should not be there at all.

One problem when choosing the poems for an anthology of this kind is that America lacks the received tradition of High Verse—no Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth or Pope—which Light Verse needs to kick against and take off. What she does possess, or so it looks from over here, is a rich nineteenth century folk poetry and a twentieth century still in the making. It is in this heralding of these truly American forms that *The Oxford Book of American Light Verse* seems both tenuous and unbalanced.

Michael Ratcliffe

It is probably true that many lyrics for the stage lose bones and flesh when separated from their melody—even "Anything Goes" needs a singer's phrasing and breath to keep Cole Porter's internal mystery intact in the line before—but the other examples of Porter's (five), Harr (five), Hammerstein (three) and in Gershwin (only two!) earn their place without music so well that it seems more a shame to have only one lyric each from Frank Loesser, Johnny Mercer ("Jubilation T. Corpone", hardly typical) and Stephen Sondheim ("Gee, Officer Krupke", ditto) and nothing by Kern, Berlin, Alan Jay Lerner, or Richard Wilbur at all.

Perhaps Professor Harmon would describe what I miss as Popular or Folk Verse that is not High can also be Nonsense: (on the whole, a far-from-un-American activity) or Comic, not to mention Silly, and then there are Ballads. Faber anthologies have been more fortunate than Oxford's, in keeping all these intertwined forms apart, though they have made it easier for themselves by, so

and his family with its mixture of joys, tribulations, frequent separations and resultant anxieties: for responsible people such as these, Mr Stanhope's book is required and absorbing reading.

He covers a wide field: by boy soldiers and bomb disposal cadets and commissions, dealing with barrack life, pay and pensions, weapons and welfare; but there are curious omissions, of which the chief is the Infantry of the Line. Under the heading "The Regiments", he deals at length with the Household Brigade, the RHA, the Parachute Regiment, the Gurkhas, the SAS, and many of the Corps, but makes no more than a passing mention of the county Regiments, and to the lament of their territorial attachment, whose traditions have enabled them to survive most of the frustrations of recent years.

The Scottish Regiments have been more fortunate than the others, in that they were able to challenge successfully the attempts to merge their identities into "large regiments", and to remain independent, of the immeasurable benefit of their recruiting. This sort of continuity helps that stability which is always at risk in such conditions. In remaining over the past 30 years, and representing a continuing act of faith, when old, ill-fated units are disbanded.

The greatest strain under

which the Army has laboured

is in commanding to labour in

the sense of being "pushed

around", to use a euphemism

for a more familiar but less

elegant military phrase.

The manner in which he allows this

point to make itself is a major

virtue of Mr Stanhope's excep-

tional and timely book.

## New Books/one

## Special relationships

### Governing the BBC

By Asa Briggs  
(BBC, £10)

### A Seamless Robe

By Charles Curran  
(Collins, £8.95)

What was The Heathcote Case?

In a public opinion poll, this question would be lucky to get an right answer. In a show-and-tell "Mastermind" question should do better. Because this is one of nine short studies chosen for close study by Asa Briggs in a book which will be required reading for anyone interested in how the BBC works. It was this earlier of the nine to occur? The Queen of Ulster, the last Forty years apart from each other, both illustrate Government pressure on the BBC and to proceed with a planned programme.

In 1932 the BBC's Chairman having reluctantly yielded to Cabinet pressure to cancel a broadcast by a 1914-18 US Army commander, wrote to Ministers proposing that such a programme should be "a general service" of the BBC. Undermined, he was told, by the BBC's Chairman, he nevertheless insisted on his proposal, and the BBC's General Manager, Sir Charles Curran, was asked to "see what can be done".

This book has a consequent, fascinating value, for Briggs' understanding of the BBC's development, particularly its political influence, is superb.

Conclusions are generally left to the reader to draw. The title is "Governing the BBC" not "how to govern" in the sense of a better Government—a procedure adopted without knowing just how it will work out". As recently as 1978 a Government White Paper proposed changes in the management and running of the BBC, widely recognized in the press

as a threat to that self-same detachment from the Government which Governors' responsibilities are general not particular. They must have no remit from the interests which may have determined their selection—the arts, the City, trade unions or whatever. The Board should never seem to be politically oriented to left or right, but this has to be achieved more subtly than by appointing political ingénues or by simply balancing the policies in the crucial relationship between Governors, especially the Chairman, and senior staff, especially the Director-General—relationships which are only confused in description by Civil Service analogies—a high degree of neutrality is needed, since their respective roles are such that they must be at times to disagree without mistrust or resentment.

The British broadcasting experiment is still watched with close attention abroad. True, it has not been copied in many other countries as seemed possible in 1922. But the consumption is of interest, whether the shortcomings of commercial broadcasting systems are irksome, as well as in countries which, in preference to either, have evolved their own particular forms of operation. The demonstration that even in such a complicated and controversial business as broadcasting there is a middle way, which makes it possible for a government to avoid being either too much or too little involved, has a constitutional value beyond broadcasting.

This book has a consequent, fascinating value, for Briggs' understanding of the BBC's development, particularly its political influence, is superb. The author's reflections on the philosophy and practice of broadcasting argue the indivisibility of the BBC in a series of succinct and masterly descriptions of its indispensable characteristics. For good measure he describes in an epilogue his relations with the two chairmen under whom he served, one a man who was perfectly ready to throw his weight about, the other less assertive. Small wonder that the relationship did not always been easy in the BBC. Chairmen and managing directors don't always hit it off when they make cuts and hits, let alone when their stock-in-trade is ideas and their stamping ground the sensitive edges of a restless pluralist society.

Oliver Whitley

## Protean genius recorded

### Picasso: The Cubist Years 1907-1916

A Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings and Related Works By Pierre Daix and Joan Rosset (Thames & Hudson, £60)

### The Life and Work of J. M. W. Turner

By Andrew Wilton (Academy Editions, £45.50, £25.00 December 31)

### Picasso, of course, is the subject of one of the most intricate and exhaustive catalogues devoted to any artist living (as he was, very much so, when it began) or dead: the ongoing and still, at 30 volumes, incomplete work of Christian Zervos.

The book by Pierre Daix and Joan Rosset is a rather different enterprise: it concentrates on a mere nine years of Picasso's lengthy working life.

Illustrates everything distinguishably (though sometimes the photographs obtained are not of the newest or the best), and links the accumulation of factual information to a subtle and sometimes very original critical essay by Pierre Daix going indepth into Picasso's role in the evolution of analytical cubism and what effect it had on his career as a whole. This occupies nearly half of the book, the remainder of the catalogue proper has the advantage over Zervos in certain particulars, especially in being able to list and illustrate works which have only recently come to light (as a rule in the Picasso Estate) which will presumably have to wait for yet another supplementary volume of the Zervos. Like the same authors previous *Picasso: The Blue and Rose Periods*, the book defines the thinking of our generation on a crucial phase in the art of the twentieth century as well as of one of its greatest artists.

Andrew Wilton's book on another protestant genius has, curiously enough, much the same layout and basic idea as the Picasso. Turner's art is considered in an intelligent critical essay which occupies the first half of the book, well

illustrated in colour and black-and-white; the second half is given over to a briefer catalogue of Turner's oil paintings and watercolours (separately listed), amounting to 541 oils and more than 1,800 watercolours during more than 60 years of working life, as against Picasso's 900, mostly substantial, in the same cubist years. By no means all of even the oils are illustrated, and those that are seldom show much of their quality in the tiny space allowed each.

But if we regard the catalogue as an essence of the main body of the book, it is undoubtedly a useful one, while if we regard the rest as a sugaring of the pill then undoubtedly it makes the medicine go down very smoothly.

John Russell Taylor

## CHATTO & WINDUS

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HAMISH HAMILTON

دعا من اجل

## New Books/two

## half a marriage

v's Leading Lady  
rey Pitcher  
Murray, £8.50)

were invited to read Shakespeare and Anne by both in one book. Howes would you like to vote the lady, who at 67 as opposed to her 52 years? There is no time to wait for an answer. But the same question constantly nudges us through Harvey Pitcher's adable book. It has to of course, that he plays his *Chekhov's Leading Lady*, so it's right, too, that actress Olga should hold the stage if she does for a very me, because she lived a ninety-first year of life, dived for 55 years after whom she knew for from 1898 and was to for only just over. She survived Stalin, underlines her talent for survival, and lived on a Khrushchevian thaw, a 1959.

she, it's Chekhov are really interested in us, and, I believe, a man as well—something over. Mr Pitcher's description of Chekhov's hesitant to marriage and leading pursuit of it is on Olga's side. Chekhov could have preferred to sleep with her now when she could spare f from the Moscow Art to come down on a his invalid patient in his strong not from any on Chekhov's part, her, up from his certain age that he was, by 1898, a man. Chekhov was in medicine, and indeed as a doctor for much life; he didn't want to burden of long-drawn-upless nursing on a healthy young woman.

CHING UP

## Crime

dazed with pleasure over I have just put down, I can't afford to call it "a story I will remember books come by electric," and then I have admiration by a tiny tying "Yes, but how do you?"

however, I can call in aid. So I have taken the of the dozen books I have created at length I've asked myself, "What remember about them

early January I read Test by Sara George (Hamish Hamilton, £3.95). And, yes, I still have a strong of a long transatlantic journey, gritty feel driving for hundreds of long straight freeways of steady sun. There was too. It featured a young actress. But of it I can nothing more. Nor does it. It held me while I'd from the book I got and vivid impression of America.

my February choice, Me About England by Ferris (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £4.95), I retain a strong impression of Britain. Though in aridity, there is a feel drab pettiness. Perhaps not the whole truth, but truth I am sure. Some



Olga Knipper didn't understand this. She wasn't stupid, but she wasn't subtle either. "How much longer are we going to be secretive?" she writes to him from Moscow in 1900. "And what's the point? . . . I can't bear these ambiguities, why complicate life?" Chekhov, I believe, would have smiled a sad smile

when he received this one. Olga was a steamroller lady of German descent. Best perhaps to marry her, and not try to explain. Mr Pitcher fails to bring our with sufficient emphasis what I take to be Chekhov's stance at this point in their relationship.

So they were married. But even then, it wasn't more than

hard scrubbing of the memory tells me, too, that there was an exciting, if somewhat overdone, spy tale in the pages.

More spying in early March with The Alpha List by Ted Allbeury (Granada, £4.95). And here it is the substance of the book that Time has preserved for me. Perhaps because this was a spy story with a clear didactic purpose. It sought to bring to public attention a situation that corresponds fairly closely to a likely, but secret, real state of affairs: the highly confidential plans for post-nominal Britain. Technology can provide safety for a few. Who are to be the few, not of 1940, but of 19

when? In June came The Rose in Darkness by Christiana Brand (Michael Joseph, £5.25), a welcome return to the full glare of the footlights by a classic crime author too long in the wings. And a decidedly vivid impression left on the screen of memory. The book, though a sweeping-all-before romantic story (and a cunning puzzle), implanted in my mind a fully rounded character, a girl unable to live a life of her yet wholly sympathetic and attractive.

In July I picked two spy stories. One, A Game of Secrets by Thomas Wiseman (Cape, £5.50), leaves no impression now though it must have had its share of virtues to have made me want to write about it. But the other, The Peripheral Spy by Bernard Paterson (Collins, £5.50), a first novel, has left a distinct mark, though I suppose were I to write about it in full today I might not heap on the praise I would have done six months ago. But I remember it as giving back the spy story to a hero who could be my mirror self, and yet not lacking the tension a reader of the genre has a right to expect. A fight in a Paris flat was it in darkness—with a strong implication of the chanciness of life.

July was a month of espionage. Towards its end I would

have written at length about The Better Angels by Charles McCarry (Hutchinson, £5.95). More logical thinking also tells me I found the book, alas, a disappointment after its author's stunning debut, Death of a Thin-skinned Animal.

Later in June came The Rose in Darkness by Christiana Brand (Michael Joseph, £5.25), a welcome return to the full glare of the footlights by a classic crime author too long in the wings. And a decidedly vivid impression left on the screen of memory. The book, though a sweeping-all-before romantic story (and a cunning puzzle), implanted in my mind a fully rounded character, a girl unable to live a life of her yet wholly sympathetic and attractive.

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David Williams

half a marriage. Chekhov—and indeed Olga too—felt it right that her career with Stanislavsky in Moscow should not suffer interruption. It was dangerous for Chekhov, with his tuberculosis, to risk the excitements and climatic rigours of Moscow for more than brief periods; Olga could come down to Yalta only when there was respite. Those three years Mr Pitcher sketches in with an eye for the right details: the busy, not overly sensitive lady and the sickly woman who gave at each other in the friendliest way across the vast Russian distances. Chekhov's ugly, choking death on a hot summer night in Badenweiler is also put before us with a sympathy and a restraint which make it the more horrifying.

But then come a hundred pages of aftermath. Olga's acting range wasn't wide. Naturally and rightly she occupies herself in the main with the great Chekhovian quartet; apart from that, four Ibsen parts, one Dostoyevsky adaptation, the Mayor's wife in Gogol's *Governor Inspector*, Lady Markby in *The Ideal Husband*. She also did some teaching, much besides. There was a brief affair with Gordon Craig, who was notably expert at brief affairs with women both in and outside his age-range, there was a busy tour of America in 1923 when she had the awe-inspiring experience of shaking hands with President Coolidge, there was discreet, but never dedicated, acceptance of the Soviet regime, there was staunch endurance in German-occupied Yalta during the war, and then, in 1953, moving ninetieth birthday celebrations on the Moscow Art Theatre's stage. None of this is more than agreeable chat-chat; the mind keeps drifting sadly back to Anton Pavlovich: what use would be have made of all the years denied him?

Such skinned or forgotten or never read, and then I'd write you letters indeed!

In October, 1955, Rupert Hart-Davis, 48, a publisher and author of a highly regarded biography of Hugh Walpole, wrote to George Lyttelton, a retired Eton schoolmaster:

If I had no family (bless them) or other ties and responsibilities I should chuck publishing tomorrow and live in a two-roomed cottage in the Yorkshire Dales relying for my livelihood on freelance literary work. I know exactly how little can be earned in this way, but I have few expensive tastes (only books really), I could read all the great books which now I have only skimmed or forgotten or never read, and then I'd write you letters indeed!

Wishful thinking this may have been, but the miracle (and it is the word Sir Rupert uses today) was achieved in a decade. He sold his publishing business, moved to Yorkshire to the Old Rectory at Marske-in-Swaledale and began to pursue that freelance literary life that has this year reached its zenith in publication of no fewer than four books.

Not that quantity itself is a virtue, but his books themselves bear testimony to the special niche that Sir Rupert, now 72, has carved for himself—as an editor, particularly of letters (Oscar Wilde, Max Beerbohm, George Moore), but also of essays and unruly typescripts (*The Autobiography of Arthur Ransome* had originally been typed by the author on a defective machine with words running off the end of every line) and diaries (the is at present at work on Siegfried Sassoon's).

This year's crop opened with the *Selected Letters of Oscar Wilde* (Oxford, hardback, £6.95 and paperback, £2.95), particularly welcome as the original, complete edition had long been out of print, and has continued this autumn with the second volume of the much-praised *Lytton Hart-Davis Letters* (John Murray, £8.95), the collection of letters between Sir R. C. Huntington and the poet Muriel Spark which he edited under the title *Two Men of Letters* (Michael Joseph, £7.95) and most important in him—*The Arms of Time* (Hamish Hamilton, £6.95), a moving memoir of the short and tragic life of his mother, the elder sister of Duff Cooper. The book, he says, he planned for 50 years



and wrote in five. Such circumspection would have been necessary in the fifties. The enthusiasm Sir Rupert mentions included rave reviews in the *Sunday Times* (from Raymond Mortimer) and in *The Times* (from Philip Ziegler), which would have been enough in his time as a publisher to have sold out in a fortnight a first edition of 2,000 copies at 15 shillings. Today's publishing economics demanded that John Murray should order a first printing of 3,500 copies at £6.95, and so far not quite 3,000 of these have sold in a year. But the signs are that the following for these letters is burgeoning, indeed they show all the signs of becoming a literary cult, so that sales of the second volume, even with its price increased to £8.95 will surely enhance those of the first.

Yet what infatuates Sir Rupert is reviews suggesting that his letters were written with ultimate publication in mind. "Nothing could be further from the truth. As I said in the foreword to the first volume, 'Perhaps George had a faint hope that his letters might one day appear in print, but I was always so busy that the thought never occurred to me'."

At the time the first volume opens Sir Rupert had been a publisher for nine years, but the going was tough. As he recalls, although Hart-Davis titles tended to collar the reviews, sales were often small.

"I always found, roughly speaking, that the more I liked a book the less it sold." To George Lyttelton in 1957 he remarked, that his travellers complained that almost all the books on his autumn list were totally unsaleable except in the West End. "Do they think," he adds, "that I cater for Asia Minor?" His firm was always under-capitalized, making a decent profit only in the year he published Heinrich Harrer's *Seven Years in Tibet* which sold over

200,000 copies. "I only published books I liked or thought good," he recalls. Certainly not just because they would make money, hence Mary McCarthy's novel, *The Group* which he disliked and turned down precipitating in the process a split with William Jovanovich, the head of the American firm, Harcourt Brace, with which he had previously formed an association.

As he remarks in a letter to Lyttelton at the end of 1956, his Spring list isn't too bad, but the autumn list is that the next will be barren and impotent. The great thing is to work up a string of willing horses, each producing a saleable book a year, and so doing most of the work for one: most of my winners have been by one-book men, with all to do again".

Books with the Rupert Hart-Davis imprint are recognized today not merely by their titles or by their authors, but by their pleasing design and feel. "I always knew what I wanted", he recalls, even if I didn't always know how to get it." But printers responded. If the binding of one of his first titles, *Sealskin Trousers*, a collection of stories by Eric Linklater, seems unusual, it is because Sir Rupert saw a sample of the wartime cloth and preferred the texture of it unspun out, and thus it was bound.

His colophon was a sitting fox designed by Reynolds Stone. But he soon realized that it took up too much space in newspaper advertisements, which were paid for by the single-column inch, so for this purpose a running fox (also by Reynolds Stone) entered the Hart-Davis ranks.

In its fledgling years immediately after the Second World War the firm was hampered by lack of paper. Supplies were rationed and based on Hitler's contribution in 1938.

As Rupert Hart-Davis Ltd was not then in existence it had only an ex-serviceman's allocation, hardly enough to publish one title a year. But thanks to a bookseller-cum-publisher in Glasgow who had a surplus for his post-war needs, as well as supplies bought on the black market, he was able to publish his first titles.

"I had to go for dead authors mainly. There was such a shortage of books that absolutely anything was saleable—you could have published the railway timetable in Greek and it would have sold. I didn't want to publish a new author because I would never have had enough paper for reprint."

Today in Swaledale his freelance literary work is by no means over. The *Sassoon diaries* will be published by Faber, the first volume, he says, will be out next year. There should also be a third volume of the *Lytton Hart-Davis Letters*, followed by the letters of William Plomer, best remembered for his work in editing the Kilver diaries. And all the time further Oscar Wilde letters are coming to light. More than 180 new ones have turned up since his original collection in 1952, and these should one day form a volume of their own.

No wonder then that William Plomer called Rupert Hart-Davis "the king of editors".

Ion Trewin

## The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

## Talking stock

You keep a stockpot, feed it with a plentiful economy on bones and trimmings, and boil it daily? I confess I do not, and that a proper stockpot is an ideal of good housekeeping as impractical as baking all my own bread. Cookery books, especially the serious kind with no pictures, have a sneaky way of implying that stock cubes will never do, though their instructions for making stock often require enough meat to cover the bacon fat begins to run. Add the onion and fry gently together, without allowing the mixture to brown, until the onion is soft.

Add the potato, stock, milk and bay leaf and bring almost to the boil. Reduce the heat, season with peppers, cover and simmer until the potatoes are soft and beginning to break up.

Fish out the bay leaf. Add the prawns and cream or yogurt, and heat gently until the prawns are hot without allowing the soup to boil. Add more pepper and salt to taste. Just before serving, stir in the chopped parsley.

Chilled walnut soup is a light and simple first course for winter dinner parties. Its flavour fits particularly well into any menu including roast grouse, pheasant or partridge.

Chilled walnut soup

Serves four to six

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 large onion, finely chopped

55 g (2 oz) shelled walnuts

900 ml (1 pint) chicken stock

300 ml (1 pint) single cream, or equal parts single cream and natural yogurt

Salt and pepper

Prawn chowder

Serves four to six

15g (1/2 oz) butter

3 rashers streaky bacon, finely chopped

450g (1lb) potatoes, peeled and diced

300ml (1 pint) chicken stock

600ml (1 pint) milk

1 bay leaf

Freshly ground black pepper

225g (8oz) peeled prawns

150ml (1 pint) single cream or natural yogurt

Salt

2 tablespoons chopped parsley

Melt the butter in a large pan and add the bacon. Cook gently

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Two views of the options open to Mrs Thatcher at today's critical Dublin summit

## The EEC budget crisis: is our oil the answer?

The crisis over Britain's contribution to the EEC budget, which will dominate today's Dublin summit meeting, and threatens to disrupt the Community, owes its origin in part to the unforeseen transformation North Sea oil discoveries have made to the United Kingdom economy. If the North Sea has contributed to the problem, can it also contribute to the solution?

First, let us admit—what has been so far denied—that the British have a strong case for some alleviation of the budget burden. It is scandalous that one of the Community's three poorest countries should be having to shoulder the biggest financial contribution. If Mrs Thatcher gets no satisfaction at Dublin, she will be entitled to use Britain's membership to block all Community measures which are not strictly in Britain's interest.

On the other hand, that would be a game which all would lose. There must be a better way to solve the problem. And, since the EEC is a club in which nobody gets "out for now"—least of all when the French are sitting across the table—it is not too soon to start considering what kind of bargains might be struck which would not be struck which would be struck.

At that time, Britain had not started to reap the full benefit of North Sea oil. What Britain's negotiators were concerned about was the effect on the balance of payments, and therefore on sterling, of excessive EEC payments. So the calling in United Kingdom payments into the EEC coffers was related to the total strength of the balance of payments and not to relative living standards.

This mechanism for ensuring a payback of excessive British contributions is irrelevant now, for the revenues from the North Sea ensure a strong pound irrespective of our payments to the EEC. So our case has to be made on different grounds. But, having been through the exercise once at

Britain's budget contribution has risen faster than anybody anticipated is that the CAP, to which the United Kingdom is Europe's biggest food import, is the main financial contributor, is taking more than 70 per cent of the total EEC budget instead of the 50 or 60 per cent which was expected by this time when Britain joined the Community.

The other starting point, however, is to look at what has gone wrong with the terms negotiated by the Wilson government before the 1975 referendum on British membership of the EEC. After all, the Community spent many months renegotiating Britain's membership with the main intention of ensuring that the United Kingdom would not be forced to shoulder an unfair burden. The British government at that time expressed itself satisfied with the terms. That is one reason why even Britain's friends across the Channel view our present indignation with less than Labour ones, our stock will sink even lower.

The reason why Britain appears to get a poor hearing even when it has a good case is that its presentation tends to be negative and petty. What our colleagues want is some indication that we share the vision of a united European Community could some day become. Recently they have come to believe that they might some day get it from Mrs Thatcher's government. If this belief should wither in a welter of recriminations over the size and shape of the budget, it will do us no good.

So what should Mrs Thatcher be prepared to offer in return for satisfaction on the budget? One thing she should not do is give the impression that our case can be

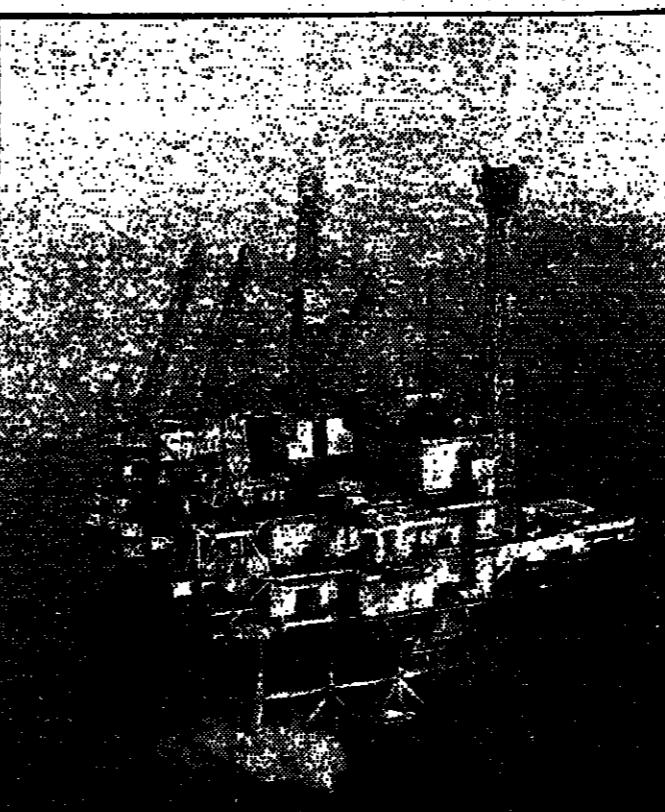
met simply by bigger drawings on the various Community funds, such as the regional and social funds. These, after all, have to come out of the total EEC budget. Big enough transfers of funds to correct the present imbalance could only come from a further increase in the budget (which would be unpopular with all member-states, as well as putting new constraints on the United Kingdom), or by transfers from other fund recipients (which would be resisted strongly by the Irish and Italians, and would be hard to justify when still poorer countries like Greece, Spain and Portugal join the EEC), or by cuts in other spending. The only such area of significance is the common agricultural policy.

Thus there can be no solution to the problem of the EEC budget which does not involve an attack on the CAP. This is not just because of its predecessor. If the European comes to feel that at the end of the day Conservative British politicians are no less bickering and insular than Labour ones, our stock will money some time in the next two years.

So Mrs Thatcher should certainly propose any moves to reform the CAP. But this will not be achieved overnight and by itself will not solve the budget problem.

So what can Mrs Thatcher offer as part of a package to start the overdue reform of the CAP and at the same time reduce the United Kingdom's contributions to the EEC budget significantly? One painless, but emotively important gesture would be to offer to join the European Monetary System. This might help to convince our continental colleagues that the European spirit is not quite dead in Britain.

But the real key to a solution lies in the North Sea.



North Sea oil: a share for Europe?

There are two issues here: fish and oil—where Britain is seen by her partners as acting in a selfish, non-European manner. Of the two, oil is more important; but the refusal of the United Kingdom to negotiate a common fisheries policy has been a significant irritant. It is true that the fishing policy has not been the only issue between Britain and the Six. Before Britain joined the EEC does not suit our interests. But as part of an overall package we could seek an acceptable compromise.

The biggest grievance which our fellow EEC members have against us, however, is our refusal to regard our North Sea oil as a European as well as a national asset. We have adopted a policy of high oil prices; we have not been prepared to give price or supply priority to EEC members; we have allowed our

## Making unity a weapon

Ronald Butt

Mrs Thatcher is, of course, a supporter of the European Community, but she is not so keen to speak, a fanatical member of the European Club to which the best sort of Englishmen have been expected to belong in the past couple of decades. That is to say, she does not consider as a hallmark of leadership in a British politician that he should in the end be willing to subordinate British interests today to the idea of a greater Community tomorrow.

To put it another way, Mrs Thatcher's position in respect of Britain in Europe is not very different from the position of almost any French politician on France in Europe.

Nobody is going to say we can, or should, pay £1,000m. What is there is fundamental agreement throughout the British press.

This creates a very difficult situation in Britain from which existed when our claims were divided neatly between pro and anti-Europeans.

There are few European supporters today that are prepared to pay the £1,000m or anything like it. As for passionate anti-Europeans, find their general position summed in the present government's resistance to paying.

It is not that there is no chance of Mrs Thatcher leaving Britain to the exit door alone through it. The point is that British resistance will continue, perhaps to a point at which it could undermine the Community whole.

A Labour government that contained Mr Peter Shore, Mr Tony Benn and Mr John Silkin was bound to have its responses conditioned by their habit of looking at every difficulty that arose from membership of the EEC as a little stick of dynamite to be placed under the Community umbrella in order to weaken it cumulatively and contribute to final collapse.

Now could a Labour government ever ignore the fundamental difference with which the majority of its supporters regard British membership. Such an attitude was not, however, a strong position from which to obtain concessions for Britain. For why should other members of the Community pay good money to meet the demands of a British political party whose underlying wish to leave the Community seems unlikely ever to go away?

The position of the Tory Government is very different. Nobody in it least of all Mrs Thatcher is threatening to take Britain out of Europe. Nobody, indeed, believes that "walking out" is even an option. The Cabinet contains only one former anti-Marketeer, from the resistance movement to Mr Heath's Home into Europe—Mr John Major, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Moreover, Mr. Kiffen seems quite content to wait for enlargement of the Community to weaken de facto its supranational aspects.

Overwhelmingly, the Conservative Party which, after some agonizing, took Britain into Europe wants the Community to work. Indeed, Mrs Thatcher herself sees the possibility of an eventual political place for the Community in Western Europe's defences which, in some ways, goes beyond the imagining of the more conventional British "Europeans".

On the other hand, it is now recognized throughout the Conservative Party that we cannot continue to pay a sum of money to the Community each year that virtually wipes out our annual invisible export surplus. This change of emphasis in a still strongly pro-European Conservative Party is the key to Mrs Thatcher's second great advantage in her attempt to solve Britain's £1,000m problem rather a different light.

Bernard Levin concludes his series: today, the dangers to man and his liberty

## If hell is your choice, choose it

not be too much to say that his argument can be summarized thus: that man must be able to choose to go to hell, and that those who destroy that choice are in fact ensuring that he goes to hell without the option.

Choice is a moral question at bottom, its economic and political forms being only a reflection of that truth. And what is so valuable about Mr Eaton's is the way in which he makes no concessions at all to the withered remnants of the Enlightenment that brought us to our present pass. For him, as for Mr Bolton, man is God's viceroy on earth, with this viscerosity that his viceregal rule is forever autonomous, with no need or indeed opportunity to refer back to the home government for instructions, but that he will nevertheless be judged according to how he fulfills his prime part in the home government's scheme of things.

A man is all or nothing: either he is a god or nothing; either he is of God or in more of dust among millions of others. While the clouds come down upon us and the storm rages, we build our sandcastles because they are good in their small way and some are

beautiful, and because they reflect the patterns of another place, a more enduring realm, projected into these fragile turrets and outworks; but every man who creates them contains the possibility of being something infinitely more than a short-lived creature than this short-lived earth, just as a seed contains in virtuality a great tree.

But although Mr Eaton fights primarily with such weapons, he carries another armoury in his train: the power of divine morality which insists that man's arms must be bound to their sides because some might want to use their fists, and insists that their ankles be tethered because some might want to walk into trouble.

That is Mr Eaton's case in a few words, but those quotations cannot convey the breadth or the power of his case, nor the visor, claws and wit of his viscerosity. Nothing but reading his book can do that, but perhaps a few more quotations may help to stimulate an interest.

We are witnessing now an attempt to eliminate the darker, more painful aspects of human living no longer by rising above them (and thereby gaining in stature), but either by abolishing them—which is impossible since they lie in the nature of

things—or by pretending they do not exist. We can even occupy the seats of that power in one country or another they do so only by courtesy of good men who obey them without question, giving so much—the best they have to give—to purposes which they do not understand, right or wrong, to assess. Naked evil as such can seldom operate in our world. It must wear a dress acceptable to the morality of the period, for men are only successfully misled if they believe that they are following the path of virtue.

Every parading behind the mask of Justice is an ugly brute. In the West Indies, when land crab is to be imported overnight before being called a crab, they are placed in a wooden barrel. Some try to scramble up the sides of the barrel, and a few of them have at least a chance of escaping; but the housewife has nothing to fear as soon as she has closed the lid. Her companions pull it down.

Next morning the pot is filled and all are boiled together. Mercifully, crabs have no voice with which to proclaim their concern. Divine Justice is a myth, hell is a wicked superstition, prayer less important than decent behaviour. The last resort, and still the pasteras go their way, sorry having to ignore such nice men but with more important matters demanding their attention. And yet these martyrs are also something much more. Man is a rational being, but he is also something much more. Reason is one of his tools—not his definition.

Mr Eaton has diagnosed our present condition with ruthless honesty. He has prescribed no infallible cure; he recognizes, like every such teacher, that there are as many roads to health as there are seekers truly desirous of finding it and willing to pay the price. But the value and ultimate virtue of his book is that it makes impossible for the reader to accept the diagnosis and deny the need of a cure; those who admit the ruinous nature of the policies that have ground us to our present condition will find much to comfort them in this book.

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The experience is unforgettable. Just remember the name.



Hennessy The connoisseurs' cognac.

## From Georgia to the Round House

A notable theatrical double is in the making at the Round House. Here are the details. Thelma Holt announced yesterday that the Rustaveli company from Georgia will be appearing at the theatre early in the New Year.

Although previously little known outside Russia, the company drew rapturous reviews from critics at this year's Edinburgh Festival.

From January 28 to February 9 it will be performing *Richard III* at the Round House, with the title role played by Rama Chkhikvadze, whose performances in Edinburgh were compared with Olivier's famous portrayal.

However, Miss Holt has another treat up her sleeve: a plan for the first visit to London by the Glasgow Citizens' Theatre, which also scored a success at Edinburgh.

Not only has the Citizens' an unparalleled reputation for adventurous productions, but it could also offer Londoners an extra attraction—the theatrical bargain of 1980.

At its home in the Gorbals, the company charges the lowest possible prices, with all seats at 75p for adults; it wants to charge exactly the same in London.

One thing could stand in the way of the visit: the lack of a subsidy. Miss Holt said the Round House had no funds at the moment, but she could take the risk so long as she knew in advance what Arts Council grant she could expect for the next financial year. Both she and the Citizens' are

also looking for a private sponsor.

The play they want to present in London for two weeks in March is Robert David MacDonald's latest work, based on the multi-volume novel by Marcel Proust, *Remembrance of Times Past*. His title is *A Waste of Time*.

The project is not as foolish as it might sound. MacDonald has a formidable track record as a translator and adapter of European literature and drama, ranging through Molière, Brecht, Balzac and Gogol.

He recently reduced 3,000 pages of Goldstein's *Country Life* to less than a hundred, and won critical praise for the result. Thus Proust's work, the butt of countless jokes about the impossibility of ever reading it all, may yet prove to be a dramatic hit.

*From Holler to Heidkloß* is the prettily impenetrable title of an exhibition opening at the Victoria and Albert Museum next Wednesday. It actually presents the early history of fashion magazines, from the seventeenth-century engraver Wenceslaus Holler, who travelled through Europe as the first person to document particularities in dress, to von Heidkloß, whose *Gallery of Fashion* was the more direct precursor of today's magazines.

A certain nervousness may be detected in the British film world over the première in Italy earlier this month of *Caligula*, a film whose cast

includes such British actors as Peter O'Toole, Sir John Gielgud, and Malcolm McDowell in the title role.

The film, originally known as Gore Vidal's *Caligula* until the author had his name removed from the title, was shot three years ago in Italy, but since then there have been reports that it has been turned into something akin to a "soft-porn" movie—a development which is not impossible when one considers the scope offered by the Roman emperor's sexual excesses.

McDowell's agent, Dennis Selinger, said that McDowell had known nothing about the film's première. "He has not

## ARTS DIARY



seen it; none of us has seen it."

He said the actor was not worried about his own scenes, but about what else might have been fished into the film. "It is certainly not a case one associates with a pornographic movie. Unfortunately no one knows what they might have done with it."

A report in the magazine *Screen International* suggested that audiences in Italy were not particularly scandalized by the film, and that in Rome, at least, a few people left the theatre in the middle of the film.

At the moment Mr Selinger said they were all waiting to find out whether the film was going to be shown in Britain. No one seemed to be resisting the prospect.

*Shape*, the organization which introduces artists into such institutions as hospitals and prisons, will see one of the fruits of its efforts at a variety performance for the handicapped at the Commonwealth Institute, London, on Sunday, among the performers, who include Brian Rix and Ballet Rambert, will be a group of boys from Huntercombe hospital who formed a steel band after hearing a jazz performance arranged by *Shape*.

## Interludes for Yeats

Sir Michael Tippett reaches his 75th birthday on January 2 and celebratory concerts are planned both in Britain and abroad. Although the composer's conti-

in America, his only scheduled appearance in Britain is during the English Chamber Orchestra's birthday concert in the Queen Elizabeth Hall on January 9, when he will conduct his Concerto for Double String Orchestra.

The evening will also include two performances of a work not previously heard in this country: *Words for Music*. Perhaps it was written for the BBC in 1959 as a new way of presenting poetry. Using poems by W. B. Yeats, largely from his aptly named collection *Words for Music*, Tipper did not produce song settings, but instead provided little smatches of music to interleave between the poems, which will be spoken at the concert by Michael Hordern.

The composer explained: "Nowadays I am disinclined to destroy the verbal music of any real poetry by instrumental or vocal music. I'd prefer to manufacture the scenario of words myself."

Tempting for Drabble. The novelist Margaret Drabble has just taken on the time-consuming task of red-editing the Oxford Companion to English Literature, first published in 1932 and containing some 40,000 entries.

I debated the idea for a long time before signing a five-year contract," she said. "It is a big project and I shall have some assistants to help me check every one of the entries and decide what to cut out and what to put in."

"In the end, I could not resist the idea of going back to university. It's like doing

another degree, and it's another chance of reading the whole literature. That is what I'm so temping."

## Peter Grimes for France

Covent Garden's much-travelled production of Britten's *Peter Grimes*, which has so far been to Italy, South Korea and Japan off again next season. It will be presented at the Paris Opéra as the first offering in a exchange scheme. Jon Vickers will take the title role, John Pritchard conducting.

In the 1981-82 season *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* will be seen at the Opera. Nothing yet been sealed about what productions Paris will send to Covent Garden.

The 1980-81 season in Paris will also feature the soprano Valerie Masterson in Juliette in a new production Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*. Juliette is expected to take a new English National Opera production of the work in London late next year.

Ligeti's highly praised opera *Le Grande Macabre* will be given its Paris premiere in the same season, but it is likely to be seen so soon. London: no date has been fixed for the planned ENO production.

The Arts Council has announced the award of a Theatre unit subsidy of £1,500 to André Corr to enable him to write plays about political, human rights and the major factors of dangerous ideologies. It will be a comedy.

Martin Huckabee



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

**WHAT'S THE HARM?**

Pornography is deeply offensive to some people, depending on the strength of the brey and the delicacy of the stomach. Pornography affords pleasure to some people who extract sexual stimulation from it. Pornography is a source of profit to those who manufacture and deal in it. If that were all there is to it, the standing of the law in the latter would be clear and fairly simple. It would seek to protect those whom pornography offends from the nuisance of having it thrust under their noses and of aving the public scene in which they move disfigured by the splash of its commercial exploitation. The law would not seek to interfere otherwise with its availability or trade. Some restriction: no prohibition. Add a sort of protection for juveniles which the law affords against the demon drink, add also a thoroughgoing censoring system for the public viewing of films, and you have the bones of what is recommended by Professor Bernard Williams's committee.

**Crucial questions**

It is a solution which has much to commend it, assuming for the sake of argument that the legal provisions would work in the way intended—a large assumption in anything to do with obscenity. It prevents the public bruising of feelings, it allows private gratification, enlarges freedom of choice, it reduces the significance of inherently unstable legal distinctions between classes of material, excuses the law and law enforcement from a duty to suppress the unsuppressible, and somewhat reduces the scope for corruption of the police.

There is, however, one very noticeable omission from the scheme. It does not purport to ward adult persons or society in general from harm (except a restricted protection of actors or models for pornographic productions from actual physical harm); this is because in the view held by the authors throughout most of their report pornography, including the pornography of violence, does not give rise to either of a type or of a degree which requires that the law should intervene. In this their scheme departs radically from all previous attempts to regulate these matters by statute: common law. Those sections of the report—and they are substantial—which consider the question of the harm done by pornography and the protective action of law are the crucial sections; for the radical departure that is proposed stands or falls by reference to those questions.

First, harm to whom? There are so many ways of going to the dogs, so many influences abroad to debase sensibility, corrupt the imagination and warp the personality that even those who are far in their own minds that pornography has those effects may hesitate to single it out for suppression in order to protect from themselves those who like that kind of thing.

Then there is the harm of a more general kind which in the

words of the committee concerns "the infecting of society with a disregard for decency, a lack of respect for others, a taste for the bare, a contempt for restraint and responsibility"—what is sometimes called cultural pollution. On this the committee justly observes that such arguments should not be discounted just because they are not based on direct tangible effects. "Long-term effects on civilization and culture are self-evidently important and should be considered as carefully as one can, even if they cannot be quantified and demonstrated." But this is an area in which it is especially difficult to distinguish cause from effect, symptom from disease, the significant from the superficial, and it is an area to which an open, plural, changing society will be cautious in admitting prohibitive law-making. For rescue from moral and cultural decline a society must turn elsewhere than to the criminal law.

There remains a kind of harm, which is in principle identifiable and to which the law commonly pays attention. This is the harm which may come to A from B's indulgence in pornography. If pornography tends to a significant degree to excite its addicts, or actively reinforce their proclivity to criminal or anti-social behaviour which does harm to others, then there would be grounds enough for the law to interfere; suspicion falling principally not on the merely lewd or lascivious, but on the pornography of sadism where the sexual drive is fused with cruelty and violence.

A newcomer to the controversy, if there is one, might expect the medical, behavioural and social sciences between them to return a clear answer to what appears to be a fairly simple question: does indulgence in sadistic pornography tend to provoke behaviour of a similar character in a significant proportion of cases? He will be disappointed. He may be disappointed too by the committee's handling of admittedly unsatisfactory evidence.

It starts from the dubious premise that in order to justify legal intervention "the causation of harm should lie beyond all reasonable doubt". That imposes a heavy burden of proof when the proposition is not to impose a new prohibition but to maintain one which has existed for a very long time in most literate societies; when the prohibition accords with mimetic theories of moral development from Plato to A. N. Whitehead; and when the material to be prohibited is of no intrinsic merit whatever. A significant risk of harm occurring would seem to be a good enough reason for prohibitory action (provided the action, while remaining proportionate to the mischief, can be effective).

From that starting point the committee proceeds to inspect with cool scepticism the evidence presented to it. From its expert witnesses it looks for proof, not mere misgivings, about the effects of pornography on behaviour. It finds that clinical evidence points in opposite directions.

**THE VOICE OF THE SAUDI PAST**

Five days after the attack on the Great Mosque in Mecca, it remains far from clear what exactly happened, or indeed what is happening now. The Saudi authorities have shown their usual extreme discretion about their domestic affairs. Their first reaction—perhaps an instinctive one—was to cut off all telephone and telex links between Saudi Arabia and the rest of the world. Even since these were restored they have given an absolute minimum of information about what was going on. This policy has, as is usual, been counterproductive, giving the rest of the world the impression that there must be a very serious crisis and encouraging the wildest speculation about its nature. Some of this speculation, in Iran and elsewhere, has been deliberately inflammatory, with the tragic results that are not known. The vagueness of the official Saudi statements does not excuse that, but it remains at least possible that fuller and more precise statements on the first day would have forestalled the destruction and bloodshed which occurred in Pakistan and elsewhere on subsequent days.

In other places, uncertainty encouraged speculation that the seizure of the mosque had been carried out by partisans of the Iranian revolution, presumably Shia Muslims either from Iran

or, more alarmingly, from eastern Saudi Arabia itself, where many Shiites are employed in the oil industry. Such a development would be deeply worrying not only to the Saudi regime but, perhaps even more so, to some of its neighbours in the Gulf whose Shiite populations have shown signs of unrest since Imam Khomeini came to power in Iran. The most vulnerable states in this respect are Bahrain and Iraq. It transpires, however, that the uprising in Mecca was not the work of Shiites, but of a new Mahdist sect which has arisen among the Bedouin tribes of central Arabia, apparently led by students or recent drop-outs from the faculties of Islamic law.

One can see that this discovery may in fact be more alarming to Saudi Arabia's rulers than a Shia revolt would be. The Shiites in Saudi Arabia are a despised minority. But the religious fervour of the desert tribes represents the very origin of the Saudi state. It is almost as though King Khalid's ancestors had returned to haunt him and to reproach him with the extent to which the Kingdom, under the influence of wealth and of contact with the West, has fallen away from the values that they proclaimed. The new Mahdi must be considered a schismatic, but he hails from the heartland of Wahhabi orthodoxy, and his action recalls that of the

centres of lowest Hell: Judas, the betrayer of the benefactor of mankind, Brutus and Cassius, the betrayers of the founders of the Roman Empire, an institution divinely ordained, so Dante believed, to govern the world. Where did E. M. Forster get the idea that Brutus and Cassius were dead rather than traitors? There must have been some strange interpretations of Dante among his friends.

It has been noted that Professor Barbara Reynolds

Blunt expressed no repentance for his treachery but on the contrary sought to justify it by references

to conscience and loyalty. Dante has provided a striking image of this aspect of the sin he most abhorred. At the very moment of choosing treachery, the traitor's soul leaves his body and is lodged in the ice of the ninth circle, being replaced on earth by a demon. Traitors thus die to humanity before they are dead and repentence is impossible. This may have been unorthodox theologically, but it appears to be borne out psychologically.

Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA REYNOLDS,  
220 Milton Road,  
Cambridge.  
November 23.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Pickets and hospital patients**

From Mr Roland Moyle, MP for Lewisham, East (Labour)

Sir, The sight of industrial pickets denying heating oil to hospital patients (whether suffering from cancer or not) must be deeply disturbing to all with any humanity or any sense of pride in, or affection for, the National Health Service. The news that the problem is being solved by counter-picketing by other groups at the hospital can only add to that sense of disturbance. Whatever the outcome such tactics will not make Charing Cross, with all need for teamwork, a happier place to work in where the dispute is over.

That the unexpected happens. The committee is sailing along in rational detachment towards the farther shore where it will deliver its message of Not Proven. No evidence of harm such as to justify suppression, when it is hit by a sudden squall.

The wreckage of that event can be studied in paragraph 12.10 of the report. The committee has been shown some film:

It is not simply the extremity of the violence which concerns us: we found it extremely disturbing that highly explicit depictions of mutilation, savagery, menace and humiliation should be presented for the entertainment of an audience in a way that appeared to emphasize the pleasures of sadism... It may be that this very graphically presented sadistic material serves only as a vehicle for the criminal or anti-social behaviour which does harm to others, then there would be grounds enough for the law to interfere; suspicion falling principally not on the merely lewd or lascivious, but on the pornography of sadism where the sexual drive is fused with cruelty and violence.

For some unaccountable reason the national negotiating machinery has sat upon our document for

months on end. I know there was some disagreement about the role of a regional disputes panel and also some NHS management feared that such procedures might undermine their authority. I believe such fears are groundless. I have worked in other industries with disputes committees similar to those proposed for health and safety, and found their management to be at least as authoritative as that of the National Health Service.

Surely the Whitley Council should now get on with the job. There can be no real obstacle to the institution of a procedure for dealing with local disputes in the NHS. This could well be an occasion when the Secretary of State would feel justified in leaning on the negotiating machinery. We all need to be spared pickets, pickets are people, the distress of these incidents.

Yours faithfully,  
ROLAND MOYLE,  
Minister of State for Health 1976-79,  
House of Commons.  
November 27.

From Mr Brian Fothergill

Sir, Has not the time now come for legislation to make the picking of hospital illegal? The right of strike is a local disputes machinery to be funded. We had also referred to these principles to the NHS national negotiating machinery for detailed negotiation and agreement.

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN FOTHERGILL,  
7 Union Square, N1.  
November 27.

**BL management**

From Mr Geoffrey Robinson, MP for Coventry, North West (Labour)

Sir, Your leader "At Stake: 100,000 jobs" (November 27) was a commonplace of over-simplification.

If you ask seven people out of eight if they want to keep their jobs, the vote is as predictable as was the outcome of the latest BL ballot. For you, and worse still for BL management, to interpret it as an overwhelming expression of support for Sir Michael is a dangerous self-delusion.

As any objective MP representing a car constituency in the West Midlands will tell you, the credibility of Sir Michael and his senior colleagues is now at an all-time low.

And is this surprising if one considers that Sir Michael has failed as a chief executive all three sets of management in the motor car industry?

BL's market share is down; BL cars fail to generate internally adequate funds; and its manpower productivity as measured by cars produced per direct operative is also down. Add to this the con-

stant chopping and changing of basic facility planning which directly affects the workforce and you can well imagine their bewilderment and mistrust.

Sir Michael has now been in charge of BL for over two years. If, as you say, "a week can be a long time in industry" then certainly two years—which have been two years for the motor industry whatever the future may hold—are time enough to get a company pointing in the right direction.

Sir Michael, of whom I initially had high hopes, has manifestly failed to achieve this. Central to his failure has been his inability to win the unions and men over. Until he and his senior management achieve this, BL cars will continue to decline. And in this light, irrespective of any other considerations and whatever the outcome of the three-man inquiry, the precipitous dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson is only to be judged an unjustifiable and unnecessarily counterproductive decision.

Yours etc,

GOFFREY ROBINSON,  
House of Commons.

**Raising EEC farm prices**

From the President of the National Farmers' Union

Sir, In your leader of November 28, it was suggested that the Prime Minister could veto any increase in farm prices next year and refuse to renew the marketing year.

Of course, the National Farmers' Union recognises that there must be a major reduction in the net contribution of the United Kingdom to the EEC budget. However, to use what your leader describes as "blunt instruments", which would at the same time do very considerable harm to one of Britain's biggest and most efficient major industries, is not sensible.

It is quite unrealistic, both socially and politically, to expect that European farm prices can be frozen when all other prices are rising, and inflation in the Community is close to 10 per cent.

In the United Kingdom, our own inflation rate is twice the Community average. For far too long, British farmers have, through the overvalued green pound, received much lower prices than those paid to producers elsewhere in the Community. This has deprived British agriculture of many hundreds of millions of pounds, badly needed for new investment; it has also resulted in the serious decline of our breeding herds while those in many EEC countries have been built up.

British farmers are efficient producers. It makes no sense to see our agriculture and our processing industries run down in this way. The only people who benefit are our continental competitors, certainly not in the long run, the British consumer.

British agriculture does not expect "exceptional treatment", but it does expect fair treatment. It

does not expect to be handicapped in competition with other countries by the use of an artificial exchange rate.

I am, Sir, Yours sincerely,

RICHARD BUTLER,  
The President,  
The National Farmers' Union,  
Agriculture House,  
Kingsbridge, SW1.

November 28.

From Lord Dour, MEP for Surrey (Conservative)

Sir, My colleague Stanley Johnson (November 27) is entirely correct.

What the British Government last Friday (November 24) voted against in the European Parliament's amendment to reduce agricultural spending by the EEC, they voted against the national interest, because of their fear of confirming the European Parliament's budgetary authority over the Community Budget.

If as a result the French do support Mrs Thatcher on Thursday we will all be pleasantly surprised. If they don't then the Conservative Government will have behaved exactly like their Socialist predecessors did a year ago over the size of the Regional Fund. The European Parliament is trying to reduce farm spending because the Council of Agriculture Ministers, including our own Minister, seem incapable of doing it themselves.

At this difficult moment it would have been better for the British Government to have accepted gratefully the help they were receiving from the European Parliament, rather than spoiling it against their own and Europe's interests.

Your sincerely,

DOURO  
European Parliament,  
Strasbourg.

November 27.

**Aid in new guise**

From Mr Richard Riley (Conservative)

Sir, Professor Dehrendorf asks (November 20), "Is there a more effective form of overseas aid than scholarships?"

Having heard the broad American accents of a number of the Iranian students currently holding United States embassy staff as hostages, I can only assume that there is.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD RILEY,  
74 Grafton Street,  
Augustus Close,  
Brentford,  
Middlesex.

**Jury vetting**

From Mr T. G. Talbot, QC

Sir, In your issue of November 19 Miss Harman and Mr Sedley rely on the ordinance for inquests, 1205, as forbidding the prosecutor to challenge a juror except for cause.

Professor Colm Draper (November 23) contends that the ordinance for inquests may not have been validly enacted. However, that may be the ordinance for inquests was repealed by section 62 of the Juries Act, 1875, and the words on which Miss Harman and Mr Sedley rely were re-enacted without alteration in section 29 of that Act.

There can be no question of the validity of section 29, which is still part of the statute law of England.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
T. G. TALBOT,  
Chairman of Committees' Office,  
House of Lords.

House of Lords.

**The language of Common Prayer**

From the Reverend Professor S. G. Hall

Sir, First, the Principal of St Hugh's and her colleagues (November 14) may expect to be regarded by churchmen as outsiders meddling in matters of no concern to them. The ordinary earnest clergyman is deeply concerned to generate warmth, spontaneity, directly expressed and intelligent worship from a congregation which knows what it is saying, and doing.

He is also concerned to communicate the truth about God and the love which he gives to mankind in Christ to the outsiders who neither hear nor care. He often sees the Prayer Book and the old Bible as a manifest and unnecessary obstacle to these primary spiritual tasks. In this, the clergy are following the educators and salesmen, who have reduced communication to a fine art of feeding people with what is brief, direct, and easy.

Secondly, there are different sides to the question of Biblical versions. The factor you cannot ignore is the literary quality of some of the modern texts. The Revised Standard Version, the Jerusalem Bible and the New English Bible are often fluent and dignified. The religious poetry of the Old Testament for instance, and some of the New Testament epistles, usually read better as well as more accurately in the recent versions. But it is also true that most of the modern versions commit some banalities.

The latest and soon most popular, Today's English Version or the Good News Bible has pursued deliberately and scientifically a policy of expressing biblical thoughts in the words of modern vulgar English. It is consequently inaccurate, limp and banal page after page, because modern vulgar English has no words for many minor antiquities (like the Magi of Matthew 2 who become mere "visitors"), let alone the mighty thoughts and towering judgments of God's address to man.

We have arrived at the present pass partly because of the weakened literacy of the clergy. This is not the fault of the clergy themselves; they are the ones who have obeyed the call and made the sacrifice. The training prescribed. The faults lie in part with the leaders of the national and educational establishment, who by their indifference or contempt have forced the confession of God in Christ out of national and university life into the sectarian backwater of private belief, personal taste, and gathered congregations. This nation still has a better clergy than it deserves, a suffering, despised, underpaid and dedicated clergy, with long suffering, overworking wives and underprivileged children. If it wants them to be literate too, it will have to look to its own standards of confession and sacrifice. You cannot have the religion of a Coleridge if you live by the principles of a Bentham.

Yours faithfully,  
S. G. HALL,  
Professor of Ecclesiastical History,  
King's College,  
University of London,  
Strand, WC2.

November 15.

**Reviving Civil Defence**

From Brigadier W. F. K. Thompson

Sir, Your call to the Government to re-establish the Civil Defence Corps deserves wide support, and not only for the reasons mentioned in your leader (November 26). The maintenance of the cohesion and morale of the Nato alliance in time of crisis is the obverse of the coin whose other side is deterrence. This in turn requires that each member nation psychologically prepares its people to stand up to implicit and explicit threats of military coercion, the primary weapon of the Soviet Union.



## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr. M. J. Baker and Miss J. M. Macie**  
The engagement is announced between Martin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. R. Maguire, of Rokeby, Tadworth, Surrey, and Rosemary Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Abington, of Swichope Hall, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

**Dr. C. Borland and Dr. H. M. J. Platten**  
The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Mr and Mrs David Borland, of Cossall Lodge, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Cyril E. C. R. Platten, of Great Sables, Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire.

**Mr. R. M. E. Parker and Miss A. M. Kirwan**  
The engagement is announced between Richard Myro Roydon-Parker, RN, and Mrs A. F. Parker, OBE, of Wellow, Yeovil, Isle of Wight, and Aileen Mary, daughter of Captain J. F. Kirwan and Mrs E. P. Kirwan, of Crawley, Sussex.

**Mr. G. P. Rashleigh Belcher and Dr. E. S. Walsh**  
The marriage has been arranged between Philip Rashleigh Belcher, FRCS, eldest son of Mr Jack Rashleigh Belcher, MS, FRCS, and Mrs Rashleigh Belcher, of Horsham, West Sussex, and Eleanor Susan, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs John P. Walsh, of Ivy House, Listowel, Co. Kerry, Republic of Ireland.

**Mr. C. M. E. Hiscock and Dr. C. M. E. Rubin**  
The engagement is announced between Fabian, son of Mr and Mrs Uziel-Hamilton, of Jejey Avenue, London NW2, and Rosemary Rancliffe, of East Worthing, Sussex, and the late Mr Robert Rancliffe, of East Worthing, Sussex, and Mrs Kenneth Rubin.

**Mr. S. A. Weinstock and Miss L. H. Leigh**  
The marriage took place in the Queen's Chapel, Savoy, on Saturday November 24, between Mr David Gilmour and Miss Linda Weinstock, daughter of Sir Arnold and Lady Weinstock, and Miss Laura Leigh, daughter of Major the Hon Sir Francis Leigh and the late Lady Leigh. A service of blessing was held at the Queen's Chapel, Savoy, and the young couple were officiated by Count Alessandro degli Alstair.

The honeymoon will be spent abroad.

**Mr. F. G. Oliver and Mrs S. K. M. Forbes**  
The marriage took place on November 24 at St Martha on the Hill between Mr Charles Prescott and Miss Julie Hill. The bride was attended by Captain Sir Geoffrey and Lady Oliver of Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, and Mrs Susan Kay Morgan Forbes, elder.

A luncheon was held afterwards at Chilworth Manor.

**Marriages**

**Mr. J. N. Maguire and Miss R. J. Abington**  
The engagement is announced between Robin Nigel, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. R. Maguire, of Rokeby, Tadworth, Surrey, and Rosemary Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Abington, of Swichope Hall, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

**Mr. S. N. Moore Brown and Mrs C. J. Farrington**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of the late Mr. R. Moore-Brown and of Mrs. M. L. Moore-Brown, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs. M. E. Glaister, of Burgh Heath, Surrey.

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The engagement is announced between Fabian, son of Mr and Mrs Uziel-Hamilton, of Jejey Avenue, London NW2, and Rosemary Rancliffe, of East Worthing, Sussex, and the late Mr Robert Rancliffe, of East Worthing, Sussex, and Mrs Kenneth Rubin.

**Mr. S. A. Weinstock and Miss L. H. Leigh**  
The marriage took place in the Queen's Chapel, Savoy, on Saturday November 24, between Mr David Gilmour and Miss Linda Weinstock, daughter of Sir Arnold and Lady Weinstock, and Miss Laura Leigh, daughter of Major the Hon Sir Francis Leigh and the late Lady Leigh. A service of blessing was held at the Queen's Chapel, Savoy, and the young couple were officiated by Count Alessandro degli Alstair.

The honeymoon will be spent abroad.

**Mr. F. G. Oliver and Mrs S. K. M. Forbes**  
The marriage took place on November 24 at St Martha on the Hill between Mr Charles Prescott and Miss Julie Hill. The bride was attended by Captain Sir Geoffrey and Lady Oliver of Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, and Mrs Susan Kay Morgan Forbes, elder.

A luncheon was held afterwards at Chilworth Manor.

**Birthdays today**

**Lord Brown, 71; Sir Eric Drake, 59; Professor M. E. Howard, 57; Sir Edward Hulton, 73; Professor Frank Kermode, 60; Mr Gordon Rees, 70; Sir David Steel, 63; Sir Peter Tennant, 69.**

**Colonel of The Life Guards**  
Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan-Howard has been appointed Colonel of The Life Guards and sold Stick.

**A memorial service for Cyril Grove Costley-White will be held at the Henry VII Chapel, Westminster Abbey, 6.00 pm on Tuesday December 4. Admission will be by the west cloister door from Dean's Yard. No tickets are required.**

**Today's engagements**

The Prince of Wales opens fire tours Greater Manchester Fire Service Headquarters, Salford, 9.25, opens and tours Salford Royal Hospital, 2.30, visits Burnley General Hospital, 2.30, visits Burnley Engineering Products, 3.45. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Chancellor of London University, attends foundation day celebrations, Senate House, 6.30.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester attends performance of *The Messiah* by Commonwealth Philharmonic Orchestra, Westminster Abbey, 7.

The Duchess of Kent, as Colonel-in-Chief of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, attends investiture dinner, County and Guards Club, Pall Mall, 7.50.

Lecture: "Our present discontents", Lord Denning, British Academy, Burlington House, 5. Christmas street market: Royal Exchange, 10.45.

Football, Istrian, Istrian League, Wembley Arena, 7.

Talk: "Yorkshire waterways", St Mary le Wigford Church, Lincoln, 7.45.

Children's concert: Colston Hall, Bristol, 10.30 and 2.

**Latest wills**

**Residue for Royal Literary Fund**

Mr. Allan Richard Turpin, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, left £5,571 net after bequeath he left the residue to the Royal Literary Fund.

Mrs. Clara Doris Barber, of Hampton Hill, Middlesex, left £66,279 net, all to the C. A. Trust, c/o the Institute of Physics.

Other estates include (net before tax paid; tax not disclosed): Always, Mr. Richard Williams, of Bristol, £10,115.92; Mr. Frank Archibald, of Norwich, £12,651.

Harris, Mr. Charles Llewelyn Liddstone, of Cheltenham, £127,957.

Hartley, Mr. William Hutton, of London, £10,513.

Hill, Mr. Edward Wilfred, of Crawley, Surrey, £133,229.

**Halcyon Days special enamel Christmas Box for 1979**

"Games in the Snow" - a joyful winter scene. This beautiful hand-coloured enamel box will be produced in Birston only until 31 December 1979.

£18.90, plus 50p U.K. post Overseas Airmail £2.30

This Mark Mentmore a Halcyon Days Enamel

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**JEWELLERY**

**Christmas ideas from Boucheron**

**BOUCHERON**  
London

150, New Bond Street, London W1, Tel: 493.09.83

18 ct gold twist ring set with brilliant diamonds ..... £630

Reeded 18 ct gold ring ..... £260

18 ct gold hexagonal watch with patent slide fastening ..... £550

**BOUCHERON**  
London

150, New Bond Street, London W1, Tel: 493.09.83

18 ct yellow gold "Handcuffs" key chain ..... £405

18 ct textured yellow gold ballpoint pen ..... £525

**BOUCHERON**  
London

150, New Bond Street, London W1, Tel: 493.09.83

18 ct gold square pendant dotted with brilliant diamonds on chain ..... £1,050

18 ct gold dragonfly pendant set with cabochon sapphires and brilliant diamonds on yellow gold necklace ..... £750

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## SPORT

Golf

**Brown and James pay heavy penalty**

Heavy penalties, the biggest in the history of golf, have been imposed on Mark James and Ken Brown following their alleged misconduct during the Ryder Cup match in the United States last September.

After a lengthy meeting of the tournament players' committee of the Professional Golfers' Association it was decided that both men would forfeit their match fee of £1,000. James has been fined a further £500, making a total of £1,500. Brown's fine has been doubled from playing in international teams in 1980.

This means that Brown, a Hertfordshire-based Scot, will automatically miss the Hennessy Cup match against the Rest of Europe at Sunningdale in September. If he were on the winning side he could expect to receive a bonus of £2,000. Nor will Brown be able to play in the World Cup, in which this year he partnered Sandy Lyle in taking Scotland to their best-ever position as runners-up.

James, from Stamford, Lincolnshire, who won the Irish Open championship, and his partner, Peter Tait, British player in the Open at Royal Lytham, was the only one of the two men to attend the hearing. Brown is playing in South Africa, visibly stunned by the verdict, will not appeal against it.

After spending more than an hour with the committee under the chairmanship of Neil Coles and including fellow professionals Tony Jacklin, Peter Butler, Pip Elson and Guy Hunt, James said: "I accept the verdict and that is all I am prepared to say. Now I must dash off home because I want to see Star Trek."

All of the allegations regarding James relate to his conduct off the course. Ken Schofield, secretary of the European Tournament Players' Division, listed these as "arriving in the United States without a visa; failing to attend rules and team meetings; and writing an offensive remark on a victory dinner". He failed to fulfil the captain's request to acknowledge the toast to the victorious American team until prompted by a Ryder Cup official.

A similar accusation is being sought from Brown as to his failure to represent himself well for short of that normally expected of a member of a British or European team".

He added that an injury to



Hit hard: Brown (above) banned and James fined.



James, who partnered Brown in the first series of matches, had the captain (John Jacobs) to the view that he did not afford much respect to them. They were not invited to either foursomes or four-ball play.

Mr Schofield said the off-course activities referred to a similar failure to attend team and rules meetings, although at a victory dinner he failed to fulfil the captain's request to acknowledge the toast to the victorious American team until prompted by a Ryder Cup official.

A similar accusation is being sought from Brown as to his failure to represent himself well for short of that normally expected of a member of a British or European team".

The allegations concerning Brown refer to matters off and on the course. Mr Schofield said there were no charges of lack of effort. But "his attitude fell far short of that normally expected of a member of a British or European team".

He added that an injury to

fined already this season on two separate occasions for slow play.

Peter Ryde writes: The penalties reflect the serious view taken by the P.G.A. of what report submitted by them. They were not allowed into the decision based on reports coming back from the United States of minor infringements of behaviour which seemed to add up to what might be called a code of honour towards the match itself on the part of the two players.

The heavy penalties reflect the view of the committee that there is a world of difference between idiosyncratic behaviour by individuals and systematic behaviour which, however interesting it may be, sometimes bears seeds of a future champion, and conduct when representing one's country in a team of the two players.

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Given the usual crop of post-Olympic decisions a year hence, it is likely that the same remarks will apply to Miss Torvill and her partner except for the fact that if there is any justice in the skating world they will not be from the top before this season ends.

Because of injury to Slater, he and Miss Barber have suffered interruptions in training; and they can expect some relaxation between now and the European championships at Göteborg in January. They have trained with weights. Miss Barber, anything but an Amazon, paints an hilarious picture of herself pitched into a world of Mr Universe. "I don't think women muscles," Miss Torvill said dryly. "But neither girl is in danger of being mistaken for a man."

England have still invited seven to the training parties. That veteran of six Curtis Cups, Julie Greenaway, among them, who is also called "the Queen of England", is Carol Caldwell, a member of the Greenhalgh Health Club, Huddersfield. Mrs Caldwell, 21, is the youngest of so many to the now women's professional tour in these islands.

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John  
chartered

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

FOOD

Stock markets  
Fridays 15.30, up 4.4  
Gilt 65.25, up 0.9

Sterling  
1.760, up 1.1 cents  
Dollars 59.5, up 0.3

Dollar  
1.65, up 0.1

Gold  
\$35 an ounce, up \$14.825

Month money  
Bank 16.11/16 cm.  
16.13/16 to 13.11/16  
to \$13.5/16 to 13.11/16

**IN BRIEF**

### Chemical aid actions elected

Letters have rejected a request for government aid for a petrochemical complex built at Mossmorran in Fife by contractors on the building contracts awarded to British heavy engineering companies. The representatives have said that to use the £50m to be made available in as leverage with Shell would be contrary to the terms of Rome.

**e takeover**  
A Group's final stage of entry into the Standard ad Bank was completed with the transfer of finance underwriting command from Julian S. Hodges business to Standard.

**le sales up**  
Sales this year are set to reach 1.4 million, the highest figure for the year which was £1.35 billion. According to the Association, which is the principal British manufacturers, the forecast is 300,000 up on 10. Of the total, a fifth has been imported.

**it grant**  
American medical electrical company which is to open a new West Coast plant to meet the needs of the medical industry in the capital, the Northern Development Agency said yesterday. The Government will grant the entire

**receives aid**  
The sports car company receiving financial help from the Government to meet a bill of its 700 employees workers are on a four-day week because of the organization of the company distribution network in important North American cities.

**s suspended**  
Sales in Wallis Fashion were suspended at 386 by while a takeover bid leading British company passed. The most likely or the family-controlled is Sears Holdings, was the Miss Seaford.

**on project**  
is more than 19,000 tons received by John & Son, the Manchester bankers, for prospectuses share offer in Thermex—a several hundred workers at the Shotton works, which is due for The company hopes to fit aircrafts at Shotton.

**ist aid cut**  
English Tourist Board is aid for tourist projects listed areas for the first time because of high demand for aid will be continued after March.

**earnings**  
British scrap metal industry has earned £75m this year, exporting 1.1 million tonnes of material to the Commonwealth, Spain, and Third countries.

### British Steel-GKN talks on joint company reach advanced stage

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

British Steel Corporation is discussing plans for a reorganization of some of its main steelmaking activities with GKN. Talks have been going on for over 18 months and could lead to the formation of a joint company to control production of reinforcing bars, billets and rods.

Negotiations are well advanced and it is expected that members of the BSC board will receive a progress report when they meet next month to consider the corporation's half year financial results. Formation of a joint company would represent the first major change in the structure of BSC since nationalization of the industry over 10 years ago.

British Steel has been kept closely informed and if agreement can be reached with GKN, which is BSC's largest single customer, the Government is likely to approve the venture. Such a rationalization—in sectors where there is substantial overcapacity—is in line with EEC plans for steel drawn up by Viscount Davignon, the Industry Commissioner.

As well as being the biggest customer GKN is also one of BSC's main competitors in the production of billets, light bars and sections, rod and reinforcing bars. GKN buys BSC's overall review of its activities.

The corporation is having

talks with a number of companies over the future of about half of its profitable chemicals business. It is also discussing with De Groot, the Dutch offshore fabrication company, the scope for increased participation in BSC's Repacath Dorman Long engineering subsidiary.

Last year GKN's Brymbo works produced 408,000 tonnes of ingots, billets and bars in alloy and carbon steel for forging and rolling. Earlier this year GKN commissioned a new billet and bar mill. The company also operates an electric



Trevor Holdsworth: developing a concentrated organization.

expected to be within the £150m forecast for the six month period made last July by Sir Charles Villiers, the chairman. But the corporation needs to make further economies in its attempt to meet the Government-set target of breaking even by next March.

The Government has said that it will not fund the corporation's losses beyond the end of the financial year. Although it looks as though the target will not be met, ministers are unlikely to agree to an extension.

### Spending cuts may bite deeper

By Caroline Atkinson

There appears to be less underspending by government departments this year than in recent years, according to figures published by the Treasury yesterday.

These also suggest that public spending will be squeezed even more than expected by the right application of cash limits. Inflation is now expected to be higher than it was at the time of the Budget.

The Government will not increase the cash limits to take account of this, so there will be bigger cuts in the volume of spending to stay within the cash limits.

Yesterday's figures included provisional outlays for public spending for the first six months of 1979-80, and compared this with an expected profile of spending through the year. This accompanied the Winter Supplementary Estimate, to seek parliamentary approval for increases in voted expenditure.

The increases were all as a result of published changes, and do not imply any change in this year's Government borrowing nor in the cash limits for 1979-80. Where there are small rises in the volume of programmes, these are offset by other reductions or taken out of the contingency reserve.

Cash limited expenditure in the first half of this year was actually running a little above the profile. However, this was because the profile were drawn up some weeks ago, and do not include all the changes which the Government has announced for this year.

The defence outturn is 9 per cent above profile, thus accounting for the overall overshoot. The defence profile does not take account of higher pay in the armed services, and increased defence budget.

The provisional outturn for support grant spending was exactly in line with its profile.

### US bank attempts to freeze Iran assets

Continued from page 1

European and Japanese banks are reluctant to follow suit on a number of other suid loans.

Some of these are covered by "cross-default" clauses which stipulate that if one loan is declared in default, other loans have to be called in as well. It is thought that in some cases, European banks have actually outvoted United States banks in lending consortia and decided not to seek accelerated repayment of loans.

International bankers are still seriously worried by the principle adopted by the big United States banks of offsetting Iranian assets and liabilities.

The core of the dispute among bankers is whether the American Treasury decision to freeze Iranian funds in the United States can be extended to foreign bank branches.

The consensus among bankers in most of the European financial centres is that the American authorities have no power to freeze Iranian assets in the foreign subsidiaries of United States banks. The Swiss authorities have already said that the laws in host countries should apply. The German authorities have argued that there is no mechanism for blocking Iranian assets, and it is thought that the Bank of England is taking this line as well.

Bankers are bracing themselves for lengthy legal actions over their Iranian loans, and in some quarters, it is felt that Iran itself may set the ball rolling by taking legal action against Chase Manhattan over the non-payment of the interest on the \$500m loan.

Non-US banks appear to be relaxed over their loans to Iran. Although no accurate figures are available, bankers in Europe have said that their exposure to Iranian debt is limited and "in general manageable" and so far they have reported no problems with repayments.

Financial Editor, page 23

### London Weekend to put up advertising rates despite complaints about low audiences

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

London Weekend Television will join Thames Television in raising advertising rates in January despite advertisers' complaints that the ITV companies should be giving discounts because of low audience ratings.

Advertisers have demanded that the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) should block the increases until audiences—down by nearly 30 per cent—improve.

At the beginning of January, Thames Television will introduce new rates which would add 30 per cent to their takings if all broadcasting time were sold at the top premiums. London Weekend said last night that it would shortly be seeking approval for an increase from the IBA.

Details of the London Weekend increase will not be announced until advertising agencies are told but it may not fall far short of the Thames rise. London Weekend believes that the present over-demand for broadcasting time, arising

from the recent 10-week ITV strike, is likely to continue well into the new year. If they are right, London Weekend and Thames will recoup more of the profits lost during the strike than expected. It is estimated the strike cost the television companies about £90m in lost revenue; they were expected to claw back about £20m by packing schedules with high rates advertising.

The amount of claw-back could rise if other companies move towards higher rates in the New Year. Westward Television said last night that the Thames move must affect the price structure of all the television companies although Westward "is certainly not planning anything this side of 1980."

Like the other companies, Westward will put up its rates at the beginning of the autumn, adding 20 per cent to spot rates. Other companies gained at least 15 per cent.

The Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA) said that some of its members were already discussing audience ratings with television companies.

There was much concern particularly over how long it would take ITV to achieve its earlier 50 per cent share of the television audience.

Mr Kenneth Miles, director of the ISBA, said: "It is no surprise that the television companies are trying to get back some of their lost revenue by putting up their rates. The IBA should not sanction such rate increases until audiences are back to a more representative level".

The ISBA fears that some small television companies, which had been falling behind in the rates race, may opt for second place in the New Year when those planned for the latter companies.

Some advertising agencies have already complained to television companies that the decline in ITV's audience share should be offset by discounts. But a sympathetic response seems unlikely before Christmas because the high demand for broadcasting time continues. But substantial discounting is likely to become common by next March if an economic recession takes its usual toll of advertising spending.

### Gold surges by \$14 in hectic day for bullion

By Nicholas Hirst  
Energy Correspondent

The gold price soared by more than 14 dollars an ounce yesterday in hectic trading on world bullion markets. The strong demand for silver over the last two days, which caused the first rise in the gold price, persisted.

The rise was fuelled by fears of the Iran crisis upsetting currency markets.

After breaking the \$400 an ounce barrier, the price surged to around \$412 at the afternoon fixing. By the close it had come back to \$409 an ounce. Gold's peak was \$437 on October 2.

Dealers commented that the precious metals had not gained much in the last two weeks, despite growing tension between Iran and America and in the Middle East. The dealers suggested that yesterday's surge in prices was partially caused by a belated reaction to Iran.

Silver reached a new closing peak of \$840 an ounce, up 59 on the day. These metals are traditional havens for speculators when the world economy is unstable.

The pound rose yesterday as the dollar came under pressure. Sterling closed at up 1.5 cents at \$2.176. The markets were volatile and nervous in the backwash of the gold price rise. The price of gold will continue to rise in the long term against both the dollar and the Deutsche mark, according to currency specialists, who said it would still be volatile on a day to day basis.

In the foreign exchange markets yesterday the Japanese yen gained a little against the dollar. Despite efforts on Tuesday to encourage capital inflows, the Bank of Japan had to spend heavily to hold up the yen.

In London the yen closed at 248.85 against the dollar, compared with 243.375 the previous day. The Bank of Japan was thought to have spent about \$450m in support.

The Deutsche mark came under pressure yesterday afternoon after the news of Margaret Thatcher's move to claim Iranian assets invested in West Germany. But it still closed up on the day against the dollar at DM 1.7465.

With that outlook, the moderate members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) have less chance of limiting the size of the increase in crude oil prices at its meeting in Caracas,

anace group to link to its unit trust activities for some time.

But assuming it would have to go some way above RIT's terms, a full-blooded takeover would involve a heavy financial commitment.

Britannia's announcement that it was considering a bid came just a day after Rothschild Investment Trust unveiled a £16.5m agreed bid for the Target group.

With speculation in stock markets that further parties could yet join a bid battle, Dawnay's shares came back from suspension yesterday. Up to the £60 a share value of RIT's offer.

After a day of exhaustive discussions, Britannia had not ruled out a formal proposal. The group is known to have been

on the lookout for a life assurance

management of £250m compared with Dawnay's total of around £150m.

Last night a spokesman for Dawnay said that the group had been aware of Britannia's interest but that RIT had been the first potential suitor to make firm proposals.

"If and when a bid from Britannia emerges, of course we will consider it," he added. Prudential Assurance will also be a key factor in any bid because it holds almost 20 per cent of Dawnay's equity.

RIT's bid for Dawnay involves a complex arrangement with Reliance, the giant United States insurance group, which is a 20 per cent stakeholder in RIT itself. The plan is for Reliance to take over and for Reliance to make a 40 per cent stake in that company by buying 29% of new shares.

Britannia has funds under

### Experience and money the overseas lures

People in the United Kingdom who have been looking for work abroad during 1979 are young, well-informed about the conditions awaiting them, and see their overseas contracts as a means of gaining wider experience as well as more money.

These are the main conclusions of the latest annual survey of the motives and expectations of applicants for work abroad, conducted by Overseas Recruitment Services.

More than 2,000 people in hotel and catering, building, medical and nursing and secretarial jobs, were asked to fill in questionnaires

TUC hits out at capital taxation

By Paul Roudedge  
Labour Editor

Union leaders yesterday demonstrated a deepening hostility to the Government's economic strategy with a broad attack on ministerial policies over capital taxation and company accounting.

The TUC general council endorsed a strongly-worded memorandum of evidence to the review of capital taxation being conducted for the Government by Lord Cockfield, former chairman of the defunct Price Commission.

The unions concede that he has not formally invited evidence, but point to CBI and National Farmers' Union submissions as a precedent.

In their memorandum, the

panies and those relating to disclosure of information on higher paid employees and directors' emoluments would make it more difficult for the employees of a company and their union representatives to secure reliable information about the company's activities and financial position.

The second leg of the TUC attack has yet to come. The unions are writing to the Department of Trade to express their "serious concern" at the implications of the Government's consultative document on company accounting and disclosure.

They will argue that the disclosure proposals for small com-

panies and those relating to disclosure of information on higher paid employees and directors' emoluments would make it more difficult for the employees of a company and their union representatives to secure reliable information about the company's activities and financial position.

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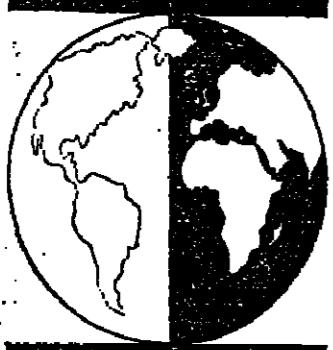
More than 2,000 people in hotel and catering, building, medical and nursing and secretarial jobs, were asked to fill in questionnaires

### A Substantial Period of Growth

13 months to	30.4.79	Year to
£1000's	£1000's	£1000's
SALES	19,266	12,635
PRE-TAX PROFITS	1,535	1,031
EARNINGS PER SHARE	19.4p	16.7p

"....the early signs from the Spring 1980 shows have been very encouraging...and your Board have every confidence in predicting satisfactory results for the current period."

MAURICE HOPE-Chairman



## EEC moves closer to treaty with Comecon

The European Economic Community has moved nearer a formal agreement with the council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), the Soviet trading block, but after three days of negotiations in Moscow, there is still a fundamental disagreement over the basic issue of East-West trade.

Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, vice-president of the European Commission, said yesterday that some progress had been made in the wording of the preamble to any treaty. The two sides had also agreed to exchange information regularly and to cooperate in a number of fields.

### Chinese visit

A group of Chinese executives from the Canton Electronics Bureau is visiting Hongkong to discuss industrial cooperation with local and foreign-owned electronics companies, and study production and marketing methods.

Approximately fifty companies based in Hongkong have signed agreements on processing and assembly operations in thirty of these electronic enterprises during the past year.

### Chemicals delay

Plans for the financial salvage of Italy's stricken chemicals industry are still being held up, and SIR, the only company so far to have reached an outline agreement on a rescue programme, is facing the possible breakdown of this project. The chemical workers union FULC yesterday called a nationwide strike in the industry for today, to protest against the continuing delays.

**Italy wins Saudi order**

Italimpianti the state-owned engineering company and Alitalia the Saudi Company have won an order from the Saudi Arabian government to build a desalination plant worth about 24,000m lire (£12.5m) on the Red Sea near Jiddah.

### Women 'scapegoats'

Women workers in Caracas, Venezuela, were warned that they could become the "scapegoats in reckless implementation of new technology", by Mr Roy Grantham, general secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs.

### Alumina contract

The Soviet Union will import 70,000 tons of Indian alumina next year under contracts worth \$15m (£6.93m). Two companies will supply the alumina as the results of deals at an international trade fair in progress.

### Canadian expansion

Mr John Crosbie, the Canadian Finance Minister, has said his December 11 Budget will try to stimulate the economy by encouraging expansion of Canadian industries, especially those which manufacture internationally-traded goods.

### Brazil crude record

Brazil's daily oil output rose to a three-year record on October 9 of 180,214 barrels, which compares with a daily average for the nine months ended September 30 of 166,949 barrels.

### Norway oil output up

Total production of oil and gas on Norway's continental shelf reached about 31.06 million tonnes of oil equivalents in the first 10 months of this year, against 24.88 million in the same period in 1978.

### Civil servants' rise

The French Cabinet had approved a 1.5 per cent increase in civil servants' pay from December. The rise, which is in line with inflation, takes the increase so far this year to 11 per cent.

### Cement contract

F. Smithid the Copenhagen cement company, has signed a 1,300m kroner (£16m) contract with the Algerian authorities for building a cement factory, to be finished by 1982 which will have an annual production capacity of one million tonnes.

### Credit policy

Credit policy decisions are unlikely to be made after today's meeting of the West German Federal Bank Central Council. It is also probably too early for the bank to disclose its plans for a money supply growth target for next year.

### GATT budget raised

Member states of the 84-nation General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT) approved a budget of 39.83m Swiss francs (£5.5m) for 1980, a 0.28 per cent increase.

### Gulf of Mexico bids

A total of 322 bids on 96 tracts in the western and central areas of the Gulf of Mexico were submitted in New Orleans. The value of these bids was \$4,700m (about £2,350m).

Attempts to strengthen currency and attract foreign capital 'ineffective'

## Lack of leverage in oil market weakens yen

Japanese fears of rising inflation are growing in the absence of any effective anti-inflationary measures, for their fears rest more with outside economic and currency developments than internal problems.

At the core of the apprehension is the ever-lowering value of the yen. Compared with a year ago, the value—around 250 yen to the dollar—is 40 per cent less. Even during the recent months, the yen has depreciated by nearly 20 per cent.

In view of this the current and the more immediate concern of the government and the Bank of Japan is not so much how to counter inevitable price spirals, but how to prevent any further decline in the value of the yen.

However, the decision taken on Tuesday by a worried government to institute a series of foreign exchange and capital decontrol measures in an apparent effort to prevent any further fall of the yen proved ineffective. The aim had been to attract foreign currency and, at the same time, preclude any speculative move. The measures included raising the ceiling on dollar and other foreign currency holdings and flexible operation of the "impact loan" system, but the gain in the yen was short-lived. The market, after a momentary reaction, returned to the pre-announcement stage.

Oil is mainly behind the currency devaluation. Japan depends on imports for up to 99 per cent of its oil, which accounts for more than 80 per cent of its energy, and is the direct cause of the currency problem.

One disturbing element in this connection is that while the yen is intrinsically pegged to the dollar, the declining dollar value does not reflect itself on the

other main currencies such as the Deutsche mark and Swiss franc rise as the dollar sinks, the yen moves independently of dollar fluctuations. The basic vulnerability of the yen caused by the absence of any leverage in the oil market is held accountable.

In view of such currency movement, the Bank of Japan was reported yesterday to be considering another rise in the official discount rate which now stands at 6.25 per cent a year.

It is the third increase in a year and the rate has gone up 2.75 per cent since April.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), have both tried to dispel any fears that could panic consumers into stockpiling. After their bitter experience of the first big oil crisis, earlier in the 1970s—both agencies have repeatedly assured the public that oil reserves are sufficient (102 days of reserves now) and that there will be "no shortage of commodities in the foreseeable future".

With or without government assurances, however, commodity prices have begun showing an ominous upwards trend. The wholesale price index, which remained below a 1 per cent annual rise during the early part of the year (0.8 per cent in February and 0.1 per cent in March) jumped to 10.9 per cent in August and as much as 12.6 per cent in September.

While this increase has not affected consumer prices yet, the upward trend is clearly there. The lowest rise of 2.5 per cent during the year, observed both in February and March, jumped to 4.0 per cent in July and 4.2 per cent in September.

Dearer imports caused by the cheaper dollar value is also a big contributing factor to the prospect of a further price spiral.

The mounting balance of payments deficits which stood at \$12,383m in 1978 as against \$3,64m in 1977 are estimated at substantially more in 1979.

Deficits in October amounted to \$1,381m which was the third largest of the year (\$1,446m in January and \$1,648m in August).

Petroleum payments account for a large portion of increasing deficits. It is estimated that \$23,423m payments for oil imports (270 million tons) in 1978 will increase at least by 50 per cent in 1979. As a result, gold and foreign exchange holdings which amounted to \$33,000m at the end of 1978 now stand at \$25,300m which may undercut the current rate of decrease of \$2,800m.

It is against this background that the government has started compiling a national budget for fiscal 1980 which starts in April. According to the Finance Ministry sources, the total of the general account for the new fiscal year may be held down to some 42,700,000m yen or a 10 per cent increase over the current plan, the smallest growth rate for years.

It is thought extremely doubtful that the growth rate of 5 to 6 per cent as envisaged by the government would be achieved. According to a survey conducted by the Daiwa Bank, the growth rate in fiscal 1980 would not be more than 2.1 per cent (real) which compares with the 5.6 per cent in 1978 and 5.9 per cent in 1979.

Such a budgetary framework, plus the currency behaviour and price rises would, in the eyes of most observers, mean a depressive economy, inflationary currency, and a more severe stagflation than has been observed in the past.

Kosi Nakamura

in Tokyo

## Toyota (GB) seeks site for HQ and expansion

By Edward Townsend

Toyota (GB), the British arm of Japan's biggest car maker, is seeking a 20-acre site in the south of England for a new headquarters and warehousing.

The company says it wants a site able to accommodate 400,000 sq ft of warehousing and 40,000 sq ft of offices, somewhere between London and Swindon, but is not prepared at present to go into detail on its investment intentions.

Toyota (GB) employs 320 people at four sites: a head office at Croydon, an export division nearby, a parts depot at Crawley and an import depot at Sheerness. It plans to combine most of its operations under one roof.

A spokesman said the move had been prompted by increasing demand for parts and service as a result of Toyota's growing car sales in the United Kingdom.

It is also clear that the company is planning for expansion in the hope that the present voluntary restriction on imports of Japanese cars eventually will be lifted.

Japanese car manufacturers have maintained their share of the United Kingdom market this year at about 10.11 per cent. Datsun, the leader, has about 5.2 per cent of new car sales, followed by Toyota with almost 4 per cent.

Officials of the British and Japanese motor industries last met in Tokyo in September and it appears that the understanding which restricts Japanese car sales here will be continued during 1980. A spokesman for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said the issue would not be discussed again before the start of next year.

Datsun, which has remained relatively quiet this year on the issue, said yesterday it hoped 1980 would be the last year in which its sales were held back.

A spokesman said: "The reason is to help British Leyland, but all we look at are the hundreds of thousands of EEC cars that are pouring in to fill the gap."

Japanese exports of assembled vehicles in October rose 2.8 per cent to 410,300 from 399,100 in September and were up sharply by 32.4 per cent from 309,900 a year earlier, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said.

But a significant minority think that the provision would be open to abuse and that it would be better to encourage small companies by other means.

After consultation with BIM membership and with the affiliated Institution of Industrial Managers, Mr Roy Close, BIM's director general, wrote to Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday giving the collective views of the managers. There is also dissent with the proposal that maternity pay should be maintained at the same level as previous earnings.

White, not unarbitrarily against it, BIM respondents regard the principle with much reservation. They point out that an employer has either to make temporary employment arrangements or bear the cost



Mr Roy Close: Call for changes in Employment Protection Act

## CWS to join talks on merging with retailers

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

The Co-operative Wholesale Society, which accounts for more than half the Co-operative movement's trading turnover, yesterday effectively agreed to join talks aimed at creating a single body to run the Co-op.

The CWS, which supplies the Co-op's retail societies and Co-operative Retail Services (CRS), the largest retailer in the movement, are being invited to meet the Co-operative Union—the movement's coordinating body—to consider the relevance of its proposals.

Speculation that the CWS might not favour proposals for the creation of a Co-op Great Britain had surrounded a meeting of the union's central executive in Manchester yesterday.

Mr Howard Perrow, Co-op Union chairman and chief executive officer of the Greater Lancashire Society, first suggested the idea at the Co-operative Congress earlier this year. Mr Perrow has since said he thought the base of such an organization must be the Co-ops retailing.

He suggested that CRS, which had grown from helping societies in difficulties and had become noted for its efficiency, would be the logical base for a Co-op GB.

The question asked in the movement is whether the powerful CWS, led by Sir Arthur Sedgwick, would be happy to let all the reins slip even though Sir Arthur has urged the creation of a single national federation to counter the weaknesses which have confronted the Co-op in reversing its sliding share of high street trade.

Sir Arthur is due to retire in September next year and senior management has been growing that the new chief executive should be selected from the ranks of established retailers, who might overcome the technical problems which had preoccupied a number of inventors throughout

Comments were also invited in suggestions that small companies should be given exemption from maternity provisions.

The consultation showed that management is unanimously in agreement with the Government that the provision in Schedule II of the Employment Protection Act, which provides for wage claims concerning "general levels of terms and conditions" to be adjudicated by the Central Arbitration Committee, should be scrapped.

Mr Close advocates its repeal on the grounds that it is "inflationary, disruptive to differentials and the genuineness of productivity agreements, and can damage collective bargaining arrangements".

Statutory provisions relating to union recognition should also be repealed, the BIM says, and the settlement of disputes in this area left to voluntary action by ACAS.

Mr Close said doubts were expressed about the impartiality of ACAS under SI (2) of the AC, which encouraged the extension of collective bargaining arrangements or bear the cost

of training a new employee, and that pregnancy can be to some extent regarded as the choice of the individual.

Mr Prior's proposals, issued in a consultative paper in September, were that confirmation of intention to return to work should be increased from seven days to 28 days before the intended date of return.

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## Managers divided on employment protection

By Patricia Tisdall  
Management Correspondent

A split has opened in management ranks over the question of whether small companies should be given special exemption in government proposals to alter employment protection legislation.

A majority of the British Institute of Management's membership of about 65,000 agrees with the proposals that new companies with fewer than 20 employees should be exempt from the unfair dismissal provisions of the Act for the first two years of trading.

But a significant minority think that the provision would be open to abuse and that it would be better to encourage small companies by other means.

After consultation with BIM membership and with the affiliated Institution of Industrial Managers, Mr Roy Close, BIM's director general, wrote to Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday giving the collective views of the managers. There is also dissent with the proposal that maternity pay should be maintained at the same level as previous earnings.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## No 'ulterior motives' behind Venezuelan oil announcement

From Señor Francisco R. Parra  
Sir, The article carried by your correspondent (Mr Michael Francisco) (Confusion over size of Venezuelan oil fired) November 28 on Venezuelan oil reserves, is broadly speaking correct. However, I hope you will permit me to recapitulate the facts briefly and add some comments which I trust will make the situation clearer.

(1) Current estimates of oil in place in the Orinoco petroleum belt vary between 700,000 million barrels and 3,000,000 million barrels. The wide range of these estimates is an indication of how speculative, at this point, the figures are. At the present time, the figures of the Venezuelan national oil company, Petróleos de Venezuela, indicate an evaluation of upgrading oil in place of between \$3,500,000m and \$4,800,

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Iran splits the bankers

ad news, for international bankers say, is the growing schism between Iranian bankers over the decision by the United States to freeze official Iranian assets. Yesterday's move by Morgan in West Germany to sequester shares in Krupp and Deutsche Bank is a further sign of the audacity of whose loans to Iran are not covered by deposit clauses.

ady some smaller United States banks have drawn up daggers drawn the big New York money centre banks the eventual share-out of Iranian assets in the event of a wholesale default. Some Japanese banks are increasingly questioning the jurisdiction of United Banks over their overseas branches, where a large proportion of assets are thought to be held. Virtually all these banks are antipathetic to the idea of declaring Iran in default and are thought to be a number of syndicates where non-American banks decided not to invoke the cross-default triggered when Chase Manhattan decision on the \$500m Iranian loan.

question now is whether the international banking system can stand the strain of legal action that now seems likely to

There are no signs yet of Opec being frightened away from the international capital markets but the future of Eurocurrency loans could well if the United States banks do not

be moment though the good news is straight Eurodollar bond market signs of coming back to life after months hibernation brought on rising United States domestic rates.

have already been a number of rate note issues this week, though of the market has been relatively buoyant throughout the summer of the limited protection it provides.

The European Coal and Steel Commission is testing the appetite of the market for its seven-year issue, carrying a coupon which falls from 10% to 10½ per cent in the final year. Eurobond investors have been caught

ady this year in early summer when United States interest rates had resulted in a glut of issues, a large number of which are still in the issuing portfolio; and there are still enough about the course of United States rates to make everyone cautious.

while the authorities had relatively access with their latest offering of stock, in spite of the modest filling market has been given this week in United States prime rates and Eurodollar rates.

stock does, however, remain well in the market and its fate over the next few weeks presumably depends fairly on the outcome of the miners' strike, of which should probably last through the weekend. Through the full figures will not be until the middle of next week, as United States interest rates are the market is obviously encouragingly not yet prepared to bet that rates have finally turned, it is still rise, as yesterday's price in the gold price served to

15.

Importantly, Comet moves into 1980 with a strong balance sheet despite the £13m outflow on Caledonian Holdings and high hopes that the new DIY interests can compensate for any downturn on the durables side. Comet has made £6.3m write-off of goodwill on Caledonian which probably chipped in around £500,000 in the latest year.

Although DIY could be as vulnerable as electrical goods to a spending downturn next year, as competition intensifies, the Timbers operations could be expected to contribute at least £1.5m to next year's total. This suggests that next year's outturn will be similar to the latest result and would ensure Comet its status in a depressed sector.

The latest result represents a fully-taxed p/e ratio of just under 6 and a well-covered yield of 5.4 per cent. That suggests the shares are on the high side in front of what could be the most severe test yet for discount durable retailers like Comet.

**Johnson Matthey**

### Higher precious metal prices

Johnson Matthey's figures are much as expected with profits at £11.5m, for the half year about £2m more than for the same period of last year, largely reflecting higher gold, silver and especially platinum prices. But given such an obvious boost, is Johnson really doing so well?

Some parts of the company—paints and chemicals for example—are vulnerable to the world recession. But its accounting is conservative and does not include paper gains on metals as income.

The company also stands to gain from the market for platinum in catalytic converters. Since all cars sold now in the United States need them, it matters little to Johnson Matthey that American-made cars are selling badly. The converters just go into imports instead—for example Volkswagen, with which a subsidiary is closely associated.

On the banking side, foreign exchange dealing proved particularly profitable, and as a result of higher commissions from metal dealing—the bank's main business—and stock increases, the bank's net worth is now £30m.

At the closing price of 195p, up 5p on the day, Johnson yields 6.51 per cent. Even if one takes a very bullish view of metal prices, this seems a reasonable rating.

**BPB Industries**

### Defensive

#### qualities

Profits from its United Kingdom operations still provide over three-quarters of the total (before interest and the share of associates) at BPB Industries; but it was the overseas subsidiaries which pushed the half-time total up by 20 per cent to £21.23m pre-tax.

In particular, the French subsidiary, maintaining the improvement shown in the second half of last year, produced trading profits some £175m higher than those for the corresponding period, more than offsetting the downturn in the Republic of Ireland, and the same again loss in the Netherlands paper company.

In the United Kingdom, performance was steady enough, with volume sales of both plasterboard and paper holding up, and a reduction in the losses on wood chipboard to help offset the impact of higher costs on margins elsewhere. Trading profits of the United Kingdom building materials division emerged some 10 per cent higher at £11m, while those of the paper and packaging operations were ahead by almost as much at £4.5m.

In spite of the possibilities offered by both the DIY and home improvements markets, there must obviously be great doubts over BPB's capacity to maintain volume sales of plasterboard if the United Kingdom building industry is knocked for six by high interest and mortgage rates. However, the effects of past spending on efficiency, and present monopoly on the group's ability to raise prices, should between them help to check the damage a slump could do to a good profit record.

Anyway the dividend payment, well-nigh doubled at the interim, looks safe enough—and attractive, too: even on nothing better than a same-again payment for the second half, the yield at 156p will be almost seven per cent.

## Business Diary: Back pedalling? • Return to sender

obby representatives told by British Rail today whether South Wales is to lift its threat to bicycles on its new light rail network which come into force on January 6. On the free travel concession, bicycles were originally used by Southern in the summer of 1978. Sir Peter Parker and was lifted four days ago. It would, of course, be absurd to suggest that this has any connection with the recent re-opening of the 35,000-strong Touring Club, the of the Earth, and the takers' British Cycling have been jointly pressuring the railways to allow bicycles on the roads as well as better for cycles abroad the high speed trains.

BR conceded free of years ago we were. Now we see this consider threat," says CTC secretary Leslie Warde-Guildford-based club negotiating on behalf of the rail companies and now BR, its 101 years of life.

Albright and Wilson's David Livingstone: keeping in touch

Livingstone also makes frequent excursions from the third floor of his Knightsbridge office to visit Houston, Texas, where A. & W.'s parent company Tenneco is based.

He has promised to try harder with local contacts and asks his fellow workers to support Tenneco's confidence in the company, despite its recent poor performance, by doing the same.

Refreshing honesty from David Livingstone, managing director of chemicals company Albright & Wilson, who like his elusive namesake spends a lot of time out of the country. In this month's *Albright World*, he answers staff criticisms of communications difficulties within the group. "I thought I had been doing my bit until my secretary, Maggie, said recently: 'Do you realize you have paid more visits this year to Toronto (where the company has an office) than you have to the second floor?"

Development Council will be coming back to wade into old world courtesy.

Sir Leslie was also one of the independent ex officio members of the NEDC, an appointment which left him at Chancery Lane to Geoffrey Howe. But since he has left the NEDC, falls vacant and it is by no means certain that his successor at the NEDC, Sir Arthur Knight, will fill the gap.

Food manufacturers said yesterday that they and the National Farmers' Union had buried the hatchet after years of bitter argument about prices. But the impression of harmony was soon dispelled when Derrick Hornby, who is retiring as president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, was asked about the latest claim by the NFU for price rises through record devaluation of the green pound.

"I don't think that the farmers' need it," he said. "They have done very nicely, thank you."

Hornby's successor will be James Clemenson, the son of a chairman of Ricketts & Coleman, who after more than 25 years with the company is now also its chairman. Relations between processors and farmers promise to be abusive after Clemenson takes over the federation leadership in January.

He says: "There's no reason why the Marston yard should not develop a specialization in every facet of offshore engineering once it becomes efficient and viable."

## Economic notebook

### Is the pound about to slide?

Something odd has been going on in the foreign exchange markets. Sterling is riding high again after its fall this autumn (although not as high as it was in midsummer).

Yet it seems to be buoyed up more by hot air than by any of the so-called "fundamentals" which are supposed to determine exchange rates.

The Treasury is virtually alone among economic forecasters in assuming that the pound will remain stable during 1980. Some fall in the rate next year is almost certain. But it may not be heralded by countries' trade and current account balances.

Britain's inflation rate is now running at about 17½ per cent.

The Government predicts that this will come down by a few points next year, although there is little evidence to suggest more than a very slight deceleration.

Faster inflation coupled with a strong pound has led to a marked deterioration in Britain's competitiveness of about 20 per cent over the last year. Export profitability has also fallen sharply.

These figures help to explain why, despite North Sea oil, Britain is still in the red.

If the pound does not fall next year there will be a further erosion in competitiveness and, a consequently poor trade performance. Currency markets must notice this somehow.

Sterling also looks unjustifiably high when comparing money supply in Britain and overseas. The London Business School, which believes that relative money growth is an important determinant of exchange rate changes, has said in its latest forecasts that sterling is overvalued on this basis.

Record interest rates in London have combined with North Sea oil-based confidence in Britain to hold up the pound.

Attractively high interest rates are likely to remain for some time, and will do their bit to bring in oil funds next year. But they could be a little tarnished if the risk of a capital depreciation on sterling holdings becomes real (because of a fall in the rate).

Uncertainty always surrounds exchange rate predictions. There is even more than usual for sterling because of the recent abolition of exchange controls. Some extra private capital outflows from Britain must be expected as a result.

However, the Government's response to this may well be to try to insulate the pound from the effect of any outflows by selling off some of the reserves.

This could be justified on the grounds that a switch from public to private sector holdings overseas is taking place.

In practice it would be difficult to distinguish between stock shifts of funds out of London because of exchange control abolition and other outflows.

It would be correspondingly hard for the Government to assert that it is still leaving sterling's level for the market to decide. Such a stock could be as large as £50,000m, spread over time. This compares with total reserves of £10,400m.

But supporting the pound out of the reserves would certainly ease problems of monetary control, more domestic deficit expansion in Britain would be compatible with a given money supply, as money from the reserves financed capital outflows.

Even so they show a net contribution to the current account of £7,200m this year and £8,000m next year (at constant 1978 prices). The figure for 1980 will be lower because the real price of oil was then expected to fall next year.

There is some confusion about the role of North Sea oil in bolstering the pound. The presence of oil means that it is possible to balance Britain's payments with a higher exchange rate than otherwise.

In these days of oil-dominated foreign exchange markets it also means that sterling is likely to be supported by short-term currency inflows whenever there

are fears of further oil price

rises or possible supply difficulties.

Longer-term funds from the oil-rich Opec countries whose investible surpluses are now growing rapidly again are also more likely to be attracted to London because of North Sea oil.

But this does not mean that any value of the pound is sustainable regardless of Britain's current account position.

The supervisory board of AEG-Telefunken, West Germany's second largest electrical concern, meets next Monday to decide on a new rescue plan

intended to plug losses anticipated for this year. The move will not mean that the 150,000 staff will share

losses which have remained remarkably loyal to the group

through the vicissitudes of the past decade.

The 20 industrialists, bankers and trade unionists making up the board will be asked to approve management proposals that will involve sacrifices at all levels in a final attempt to solve the problems that have dogged the once proud company for most of the past decade.

But one powerful interest will not be represented at the meeting. Largely at the insistence of the banks, and despite pleas from the unions, the state will not be taking part in the rescue plan.

This attempt to demonstrate that capitalism can cure its own ills will be costly both in money terms and in terms of the number of jobs lost. The situation at AEG-Telefunken has become so serious that it is believed that only a substantial cash injection and radical surgery hold out any hope of recovery.

A quick glance at the company's figures for the past 10 years gives a good idea of what has gone wrong. The group last paid a dividend for 1973, but losses since that year add up to DM653m despite extraordinary gains from the sale of assets and a capital increase of DM1.25m less than at the end of 1969, while world sales in the decade had risen to DM14.100m from DM6.940m.

Labilities have risen to DM5.720m from DM2.15m with bank borrowings advancing to DM3.35m from DM1.245m. Not surprisingly, AEG-Telefunken has paid out more interest of DM2.285m to its creditors over the past 10 years.

This is the new share's balance sheet as the new shares can hardly be valued at their subscription price of DM150, so long as the market values existing AEG shares at around DM37 as at present.

Carrying the biggest burden will be the Dresdner Bank, AEG-Telefunken's house bank, which is expected to subscribe to the new shares at a price of DM150m.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

**Goldfields group aids B Elliott's 23 pc rise**

By Our Financial Staff

A major uplift in profits from B Elliott's South African subsidiary Goldfields Industrial Group helped keep the machine tool group ahead at the halfway stage.

For the six months to September 30, 1979, taxable profits increased by 23 per cent to £4.6m against £3.74m in the same period last year. This performance was achieved after turnover which was only up 12 per cent to £48.85m against £43.56m.

The ravages of the last summer's engineers' dispute is reflected in the lower group turnover figures and chairman Mr Mark Russell estimates that the brunt of the industrial action has been borne by the first half.

Mr Russell says that the direct effects of the strike, while difficult to estimate, will probably cost the group between £750,000 and £1m in pre-tax profits over the year. The board calculates that about 75 per cent of the cost has already come through in the first half results. This means profits in the current period could be around £350,000 lighter than previous forecasts.

**Brickhouse Dudley slips**

By Our Financial Staff

In his accompanying statement Mr Russell points out that the indirect effects of the summer dispute are more difficult to assess as the damage to profitability and cash flow to United Kingdom engineering companies may cause some of them to reconsider their capital investment programmes. If this happens then Elliott could be hit by a downturn in home demand for machine tools.

Overall results from Elliott's United Kingdom division's are more or less in line with the same period last year. The group's results have received a major shot in the arm from its South African subsidiary.

Goldfields Industrial chipped in a useful pre-tax profit of around £900,000 compared with only £411,000 last time and £1.8m on the full year. Major contributions were also achieved by the group's North American operations.

The board reports that the second half has started well with a £44m order book and so far there are no indications of tail off in orders either at home or overseas. Providing there are no major disruptions during the winter the board are predicting good results for the full year.

However, some of the sparkle will be taken out by the loss of revenue from the ITV strike.

United Kingdom although its exports fell to £2,450,000 during the period under review, compared with £2,650,000 last time. The group managed to increase its penetration of the home market by nearly 19 per cent at £11,340,000, compared with £9,550,000 during the same period last year.

Chairman Mr Richard Graves, commenting on the group's interim results, says Brickhouse Dudley would have increased profits and turnover during the half year had it not been for industrial difficulties. He points out that the group's strong merchandising

showed through at a time when manufacturing profits were hard hit by the engineers' dispute.

Mr Graves is cautious about the group's performance in the second half of the year. Advanced capital expenditure programmes together with healthy order books would normally provide for an optimistic forecast covering the past six months, he says. But the current economic outlook and cut in public expenditure make it imprudent for him to say more than he is hopeful for an improved performance in the second half.

**Better margins aid recovery by Avon in second half**

By Our Financial Staff

Higher sales and increased margins managed to pull Wiltshire-based tyre group Avon Rubber out of its first-half doldrums.

Second half profits of £1.22m took the year-end total to £2,553m for the 12 months to September 29, 1979, compared with £4.41m in the previous year.

Contributing to the 42 per cent slump in Avon's pre-tax profits was the appalling first six months of the year when the tyre and industrial group managed only £431,000 against £2.37m in the comparative period last year. The group was particularly hard hit by last winter's hauliers' strike, a general downturn in United Kingdom vehicle production and the problems in the Middle East.

These problems dramatically affected the group's main product line, Avon tyres, where the division crashed into losses of around £400,000 during the first half. Achievement in the final six months was greatly improved with operating profits up to £700,000 of profits.

At the interim results stage the board forecast improved performance by all divisions of the group and the final £1.22m



Lord Farnham, chairman of Avon Rubber.

pre-tax profits are more or less in line with these predictions.

But the company admits its half-way predictions took a set back following government monetary policy which increased VAT and pushed up the cost of money. The situation was further exacerbated by the engineers' dispute during August and September which hit production.

Avon estimates that engineering dispute cost the company around £250,000 pre-tax earnings; and changes in government monetary policy probably knocked a further £50,000 off the year-end result.

Throughout the 12-month period the company says it was only four weeks unchanged, and undisturbed production in the tyre factor. Disputes and problems hit most of the major United Kingdom car manufacturers in that April was the only month of straightforward production.

The board are guardedly optimistic and looking for a tax profits for the full year roughly in line with last year £4.1m.

Group managing director Peter Fisher says current or books are looking good, the strength of sterling and present Middle East situation cloud the picture.

Mr Fisher is also concerned about the continuing press

on margins and the board

now looking very hard at w

of reducing overheads. Re

tions may have to be made

the group's overall world

warns Mr Fisher, as A

strives to make it a leaner, more profitable enterprise.

**Matthew Brown ends year with over £4m**

By Our Financial Staff

Increased beer sales have boosted the annual profits of regional brewer Matthew Brown.

In the 12 months to September 29, 1979, pre-tax profits rose from £3.500m to £4.100m on turnover up £2,800,000 to £22,880,000.

Chairman Mr Cyril Ainscough said yesterday that the volume increase amounted to some 2 per cent over the year, with the rest of the rise coming from price increases.

Drinkers in North-West England, where Matthew Brown is based, are buying more pints of lager and bitter but sales of mild beer slipped slightly during the period.

The bad weather last winter caused a hiccup in the group's capital spending programme but has resulted in a higher interest credit through keeping

the cash in the bank. In year the interest received rose from a previous £6,000 to £104,000.

Spending is currently running at around £2m a year financing the building of hotels, refurbishing pub houses and extending brewing plant.

One of the hotels, at Wigan, has just opened and the other will be ready at end of February. Ainscough said yesterday these are likely to contribute to profits for the current year, as well as the group will.

"Trading is steady," added Ainscough, "but we had yesterday reason to be concerned."

Looking to the future, Ainscough sees Matthew Brown widening its restaurant facilities rather than expand further into hotels.

A final dividend of 5.46 pence gives a total for the year 7.252p against a previous 6.5.

**Grampian TV falls**

Grampian Television's profits at the half-way stage were decimated by the effects of the independent television strike, and the group will not get back to last year's profit of £406,000 by the year end.

Pre-tax profits amounted to £3,000 on a 7 per cent increase in turnover to £2.2m. The group's television operation made a trading loss of £24,000 against £188,000 last year and the profit contribution was made by its property division with £55,000 compared with £37,000 for the half year to August 31, 1979.

A second interim dividend was maintained at 0.89p gross after a scrip issue.

The Aberdeenshire-based contractor has yet to bear the brunt of the television strike in the second half and the board stressed that although November and December revenue is buoyant because of Christmas advertising, profits will remain below the £250,000 level at which the Exchequer levy comes into operation.

**Dixon extends offer for Montfort**

David Dixon's £2.5m offer for Montfort (Knitting Mills) has been extended on its first closing date. Dixon now holds 11.3 per cent while privately-owned Palma Textile Group has an 11.95 per cent stake in Montfort purchased through the market in the last two weeks.

Mr Peter Bailey of Palma has declared his intention of rejecting Dixon's cash and share offer which currently stands at 54p a share.

Following the more-than-doubled results in 1978-79, the Braxton iron and steel scrap group slipped slightly in the half-year to October 31. With

turnover up from £5.46m to £7.11m, pre-tax trading profit fell from £216,000 to £204,000. However, there is no tax charge this time, compared with £65,000 last year. Doubling the interim payment to 2.85p, the board says it is "cautiously optimistic" for the last months.

**Payment slashed by W' Ribbons**

Having passed the interim dividend, Surrey-based W' Ribbons Holdings is now paying a final of just 1.42p gross, the year to June 30, compared with the previous year's total.

The board explains the dividend is being reduced in the light of continuing difficulties in Germany a generally uncertain economic situation.

Although turnover in 1978 expanded from £14,780m to £18,02m, pre-tax profits fell from £293,000 to £163,000, of charging exchange losses a heavier interest. The UK Kingdom companies have excellent order books and climate trade is remarkably buoyant.

**Shaw & Marvin slip:** Shaw and Marvin knitwear group rose from £884,000 to £935,000 in the half-year to September 30, from a pre-tax profit of 55p to 10p of £45,000. There is no tax charge. Once again, interim dividend is being paid shareholders received a 5p payment of 0.5p gross for 1979.

The board reports that steps have been taken to remedy the situation and all group companies have traded profitably since September.

**Business appointments****New chairman for BNP**

Sir John Hunt has accepted an invitation from Banque Nationale de Paris to succeed Sir Patrick de la Haye in April 1980 as chairman of the bank's London subsidiary, BNP.

Mr J. M. P. Moore becomes a director of Kirkland-Whittaker from December 1, 1979, and Mr G. L. Hackney and Mr A. S. McLean have been appointed additional directors.

Mr Bill Hillier, investment manager for Barclays Bank Trust, has been named a director of Barclays' Unicredit.

Mr David Ingrem has become senior international executive for France and Belgium in National Westminster Bank's International Banking Division, based in the City of London.

Mr Christopher Carter Jones and Mr F. Denzel Newton will be joint senior partners of Carter Jones with effect from January 1, 1980, on the retirement of Mr R. O. Carter Jones.

Mr Ralph May, chairman of Arcon and a director of Lead Industries Group, has joined the board of Nitrode Group. Dr D. S. Laird has resigned his directorship of Nitrode. Mr Maurice Dunn has taken over Mr N. G. Gray's role as technical director of Nitrode Group.

Mr K. G. Templer has been appointed managing director of the TMI subsidiary. Mr C. G. H. Foster takes over as managing director of TMI Kynoch Services. He will retain the post

of managing director. Witten Co-ordination and chairman of other TMI subsidiaries in Birmingham, J. F. Ratcliffe (Met) and John Wilkinson and S. Stedman.

Mr Anthony Newcome will join Easing Brothers on May 1, 1980 and will be succeeded April to Hong Kong as a director. Henderson Easing Management Mr Harold J. Meyer, president of Bankers Trust, has been named as head of the Middle East and Asia Pacific department. He will be based in London.

Mr R. W. Deveraux has been appointed director of reinsurance in Europe.

Mr Renato Casaliotti is managing director for Snamprogetti. Mr Harold E. Meyer, president of Bankers Trust, has been named as head of the Middle East and Asia Pacific department. He will be based in London.

Mr W. G. Stevenson has been made managing director of Hall Contracting.

Mr R. W. Preedy has been appointed managing director of Lonsdale Universal's plastic division.

Mr D. N. Tattersall has been named group financial director.

Mr J. F. G. Kirby is joining the board of the holding company, M. J. Gleeson (Contractors), as managing director. Mr Kirby is managing director of Gleeson (Sheffield) Rentals.

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Contribution





## Stock Exchange Prices

## Rally continues

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings began, Nov 19. Dealings end, Dec 7. 5 Contango Day, Dec 10. Settlement Day, Dec 17.

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1979/80 High Low Stock		Price Chg/pt. Yield Field		Gross Div. Yld.		1979/80 High Low Company		Price Chg/pt. % pg.		Gross Div. Yld.		1979/80 High Low Company		Price Chg/pt. % pg.		Gross Div. Yld.		1979/80 High Low Company		Price Chg/pt. % pg.		Gross Div. Yld.			
BRITISH FUNDS																									
102% 95% Texas Corp* 1988	507/8		0.100 17.000				507/8		0.100 17.000				507/8		0.100 17.000				507/8		0.100 17.000				
102% 95% Texas Corp* 1988	507/8		0.100 17.000				507/8		0.100 17.000				507/8		0.100 17.000				507/8		0.100 17.000				
97% 93% Texas Corp* 1977 90%	507/8		0.100 11.000				507/8		0.100 11.000				507/8		0.100 11.000				507/8		0.100 11.000				
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## Property

### Have a flat in a country mansion

Those who would like to live in country surroundings—or at least in a small country town but find the prospect of coping with a complete house and garden a little daunting—are often attracted to small flats in larger converted houses.

Apart from reduced maintenance costs, such properties are often more luxurious than a small cottage with the same space and are less isolated.

Although a lot of conversion work has been going on in recent years, these properties are not common in the market, but occasionally they become available.

Two are for sale in the news courtyard of Idsworth

House, a large Victorian mansion built about 1870, at Idsworth, near Horndean, Hampshire. One has an entrance hall, a large sitting room and a combined kitchen and dining room downstairs, and two bedrooms. It has been modernized and is available at £39,500.

The other is similar but larger, with two reception rooms, three bedrooms and extensive cellars. This is available either unmodernized at £35,000, or modernized at £49,500. Both flats have the use of part of the gardens of Idsworth house at an annual maintenance cost of £125. The agents are Weller Eggar, Petersfield.

An example of the same kind of property is provided by a flat in Mulberry House, Fordingbridge, also in Hampshire; a fine Georgian vicarage which was converted into four flats in 1975.

Although a first-floor flat, it includes an imposing ground floor entrance hall, which was the original main entrance of the building. There is a large living room more than 30ft long, and

two bedrooms. On the second floor are three attic rooms which could be converted into bedrooms. Here, too, there is the use of gardens, the upkeep of which, with other maintenance, is shared with other flat owners. A price of £32,500 is being asked for a lease of just over 195 years at ground rent of £40 a year. The agents are Pearson's, Salisbury.

The Basingstoke office of the same agents is dealing with the sale of an interesting country house known as Webbs Farmhouse at Mapledurwell, also in Hampshire. Thought to date from about 1550, with later additions, it has rendered walls and a tiled roof and is notable for unusually good ceiling heights for its period.

Inside, there is some good exposed timbering and open fireplaces, and it includes two reception rooms, a large combined kitchen and breakfast room, three main bedrooms, and two further bedrooms on the second floor. The whole property runs to about half an acre, but there is the possibility of further land being available. Offers of about £115,000 are being asked.

The Old House, Langham,

near Colchester, Essex, is believed to date from Elizabethan times. It is built of

lath and plaster, rendered and painted white, under a

peaked roof. It was formed from two cottages 13 years ago.

Among the more notable

bathrooms. Gardens and

grounds run to about seven

acres, much of which is a

timbered paddock, and there is

a swimming pool and changing room. The property is for sale at about £110,000.

Besides this, there are

four bedrooms, a study, a

small sitting room and two

bedrooms. This is a fine Georgian manor house with all the spaciousness of its period. The accommodation includes four main reception rooms, a study, two main bedroom suites, three main bedrooms and three secondary bedrooms.

The gardens are floodlit from control panels on the

ground and first floors, and the greater part of the

ground floor is wired for stereo. Included in this link-up is the swimming pool area which also has changing rooms and a sauna.

Outbuildings include seven loose boxes and a modern barn. The total area of the

property is about 10 acres, in

which there are three raised paddocks. Offers in the

region of £250,000 are being

asked through Jackson-Stops and Staff, Cirencester.

More details for the average buyer is Lower Farmhouse, Long Crendon, Buck-

inghamshire, a nineteenth

century farmhouse standing amid miles of open farmland and from which only one

other house is in sight.

It has a combined conservatory and entrance hall, two

main reception rooms, a

breakfast room and five

bedrooms. The house is

in about three quarters of an acre of simple garden, rough grass and a small orchard

for sale at about £70

through Savills, of London

much in the luxury class.

This is a fine Georgian manor

house with all the spaciousness of its period. The accommoda-

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Outbuildings include seven

## PERSONAL CHOICE

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davall

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

9.00 am For Schools: *Clothes*. 9.26 Location Britain (Liverpool). 9.25 Physical Science: 9.47 Science All Around (paper). 10.10 Merry-go-Round. 10.35 Scene: ("bridge before"). 11.00 Come and See: "Farewell". 11.15 Come and See: "Your Summer". Closedown at 12.10 pm.

12.45 News and weather.

1.00 Fishie Ball ("One includes Two"). 1.15 "Bingo" from the cinema: Closedown at 2.00.

2.15 For Schools: Colleges. 2.15 Music Time (Christmas). 2.40 10% Your Choice. Both repeats: Closedown at 3.35.

3.35 Play School: the story of The Dragon who Couldn't Make Fire.

4.20 Deputy Dawg: cartoon. Law and Disorder (r).

4.25 Jackanory: Peter Barkworth continues his readings from Abigail Island by William Striggle.

4.40 Screen Test: movie quiz. Contestants are St Dunstan's County

## BBC 2

11.00 Play School. Same as BBC 1, 3.35. Closedown at 11.25.

4.25 Open University. 4.25 S107 Preparatory Maths. 4.40 Science: Life, 5.05 The First Years of Life. 5.25 John Henry Story. 5.45 Star and Oliver: part 2 of a radio serial on the Hardy roof. Contains the classic closing sequence with the crushed car.

5.55 Film: *Keep Fit* (1937). Another in the George Formby series. The Lancashire comedian is involved with gangsters and a police fight.

7.15 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

## THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: 9.30 Making a Living (consumer protection). 9.52 Watch Your Language; 10.00 Good Health; 10.26 French (in place); 11.05 The Living Body; 11.25 Eating and Doing (Christmas). 11.44 Picture Box.

12.00 Animal Crackers: music and stories for the young.

12.10 pm Rainbow: stable companion to Animal Crackers.

12.30 The Sullivans: Australian family serial. Today, news of a death.

1.00 News with Peter Sissons. 1.20 Thames News: with Robin Houghton.

1.30 Armchair Thriller: Quier as a Friend. A film about a woman, based on the Antonia Fraser book about dirty work at a convent (r).

2.00 After Noon Plus: one of the items is about the disintegration of marriages.

2.45 London Belongs to Me: repeat of this series based on the Norman Collier book. Today: Percy goes on trial for murder.

3.45 Looks Familiar: music hall nostalgia quiz, conducted by Denis Norden. With Tony Curtis, Elaine Stritch, Michael Parkinson.

4.15 Project UFO: humans are told to deny what they saw in the skies.

5.15 Mr and Mrs: Matrimonial quiz game, conducted by Derek Bryton.

5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News.

6.25 Help! Southwark Council's campaign to remind private

tenants that they are entitled to both and double WC. 7.00 Britain's Strongest Man: first of three programmes to find the possessor of the most powerful muscles (see Personal Choice).

7.30 Charlie's Angels: three women fight crime.

8.30 TV Eye: How much can Mrs. Britain's Strongest Man earn at today's EEC summit?

9.00 Party Political Broadcast: on behalf of the Labour Party.

9.10 Fallen Hero: part 3 of this drama series about a former Rugby star (Del Henney).

Tonight, he is in South Wales, seeing if his brother is good enough to turn professional.

10.10 News.

10.40 Thames Report: Wandsworth is starting to sell its council houses, ahead of changes in the law. A special report.

11.10 The Streets of San Francisco: crime series with Karl Malden.

12.10 am What the Papers Say: presented by Suzanne Lowry of *The Observer*.

12.25 Close: poetry readings, by Roy Hudd.

TONIGHT: Geoff Capes, the shot-put champion competes for the title of Britain's Strongest Man (ITV, 7.00)

## THE SYMBOLS MEAN: (STEREO) ; (BLACK AND WHITE)

e Willis in Henry Intervening (BBC 2, 8.25)

vision and radio, between them, have conspired to make an excuse for piddling that we did not know or see the opening of the EEC summit in Dublin if the mark is Tudor (Mark 4, 6.30 am), when Lubbock has improved a lot of all recognition as a radio reporter from the Irish capital. Newswise (BBC 2, 7.25), fitting its programme "Playmakers of Europe", elaborates central theme that Britain is paying a diplomatic and mount of cash to each of the Community budget. There will interview with Christopher Tindall, the EEC budget commissioner, John Silkin, the former agricultural minister members of the European Parliament. ITW's contribution Dublin coverage is TV Eye (8.30). By sheer coincidence, Sir Andrew Shorefield, Professor of Economics at Queen's University Institute in Florence, tonight delivers Vernon Memorial Lecture. His subject: Politics, Economics and the International System. You can hear it on at 7.45.

Ice Ove director and part-author of tonight's play in Babylon (BBC 1, 9.35) is a Trinidadian living and in England. He has been responsible for two other documentary and a film, which have offered rare insight into the problems which other West Indians encounter rating with whites. Clearly, then, tonight's play about ghetto Siege of 1975, when would-be robbers two West Indians—and their hostages spent five days in a tiny storeroom in an Italian restaurant, is a play about the siege. It digs deeper and explores lives behind the raid. And, not surprisingly, it finds in the social and political pressures under which blacks in Britain are living.

pendent Television often under fire for what is claimed to me) to be an excess of strongarm stuff, tonight very bluntly espouses the cause of variety. Britain's Strongest Man (7.00) is a competition. They will pull heavy trucks with their bare hands, lift steel bars round their necks, and lift beer casks so that I would have thought only cranes could have shifted

full notices kept many people out of the Royal Festival November 5 when Yehudi Menuhin and friends the virtuous's 50 years of London concert a special gold medal. You can hear the fit tonight (Radio 4, 7.30), culminating in Chausson's 3 for violin, piano and string quartet.

THE SYMBOLS MEAN: (STEREO) ; (BLACK AND WHITE)

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